

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)		
DATE:	11 JUNE 2026	REPORT NO:	MO/01/2627
PRESENTING OFFICER	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES	REPORT AUTHOR:	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)		
TITLE OF REPORT:	MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY 26/27		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the changes to the membership of the Authority for 2026/27.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members:
 - a) note the membership of the Authority for 2026/27 further to the appointments by the five district councils in Merseyside;
 - b) note the continued appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Merseyside to the Authority; and
 - c) approve the continued role of Co-opted Member and for the Co-opted Member to continue to be appointed to both the Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committee, as a non-voting member (subject to approval of the structure).

Introduction and Background

3. The appointments of Councillors Jeanette Banks, Jeanie Bell from St Helens Council, Doreen Knight from Liverpool City Council, Graham McManus, Mike Sullivan, Lesley Rennie from Wirral Council and Edna Finneran from Knowsley Council ended as a result of local elections or a change to appointments made by their respective district councils.
4. Each district council within Merseyside have notified the Authority of the appointments on to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority for the municipal year 2026/27 as follows: -

a) Knowsley (2 Members):-

- Councillor Aimee Wright (Labour)
- Councillor Lynn O'Keeffe (Labour)

b) Liverpool (6 Members): -

- Councillor James Roberts (Labour)
- Councillor Heather Westhead (Labour)
- Councillor Dave Hanratty (Labour)
- Councillor Lena McCormick (Labour)
- Councillor Andrew Makinson (Liberal Democrat)
- Councillor Sam Gorst (Your Party Liverpool)

c) St. Helens (2 Members): -

- Councillor Matthew Kent (Reform UK)
- Councillor Nigel Brown (Reform UK)

d) Sefton (4 Members): -

- Councillor Leslie Byrom CBE (Labour)
- Councillor Janet Grace (Labour)
- Councillor Christopher Page (Labour)
- Councillor Lynne Thompson (Liberal Democrat)

e) Wirral (4 Members): -

- Councillor Tony Murphy (Labour)
- Councillor Jerry Williams (Labour)
- Councillor Ian Lewis (Conservative)
- Councillor Kieran Murphy (Green Party)

5. The political balance of the Authority for this year is 61.11% Labour, 11.11% Liberal Democrat, 11.11% Reform UK, 5.56% Conservative, 5.56% Green Party and 5.56 % for Your Party Liverpool. Political balance issues are considered in a separate report relating to the structure of the Authority, which is also presented for consideration at this meeting.
6. At the Annual General Meeting on the 10th June 2021, it was agreed that the PCC for Merseyside be appointed to the Committee with full voting rights. It is recommended that this appointment continues.
7. The Authority has previously had a Co-opted Member, Mr Anthony Boyle appointed to the Scrutiny and Audit Committee as a non-voting Member to provide additional independent scrutiny.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. There are no equality and diversity implications directly associated with this report. Elected Members are nominated by their respective councils to the Authority.
9. Members will be individually consulted should they declare a disability to ensure that suitable reasonable adjustments are put in place should they be required.

Staff Implications

10. Legal and Democratic Services administer the meetings of the Authority and deal with Members' queries, travel and accommodation issues. Any changes to membership throughout the year will be administered by Legal and Democratic Services.

Legal Implications

11. The membership of the Authority is made up in accordance with its legislative powers.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. There is a proposed Scheme of Allowances 2026/27, which is the subject of another report on this Agenda. There are no additional costs relevant to the content of this report

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

13. There are no direct risk management or health and safety implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

14. There are no direct environment implications arising from this report.

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

15. Elected Members are appointed on to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority to represent the best interests of the communities of Merseyside.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

NONE