

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION 2013/14

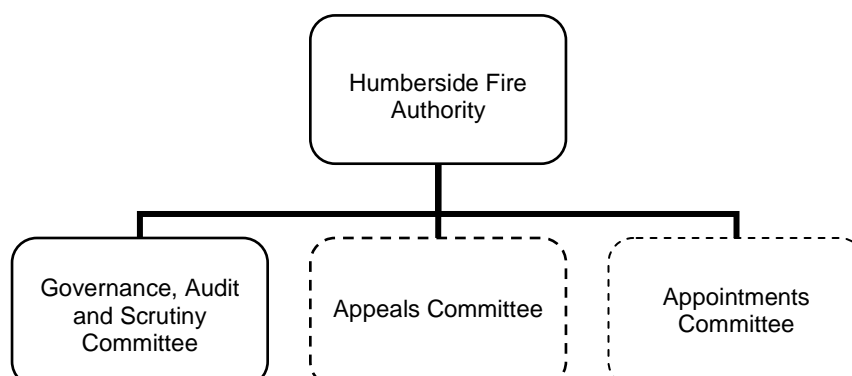
SUMMARY

1. By way of background for new Members, during 2012 the Authority approved a new Constitution which took into account the matters arising from the third review of corporate governance – principally that the Fire Authority should be the sole decision making body. A new Committee was formed called the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee. The Authority agreed that the Committee should comprise only Independent Co-opted Members and that the Committee shall have no decision making powers. In these circumstances the rules regarding political proportionality in relation to appointments to this Committee do not apply. Other than the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee the new Constitution provides that should the need arise the Authority will establish an Appointments Committee (to deal with the appointment of Senior Officers and make recommendations to the Authority), and an Appeals Committee (to hear any appeal against dismissal under the current Conduct and Performance Procedure). In respect to these Committees regard shall be had to the rules on political proportionality.
2. The Authority should confirm the structure of its Committees (proposed as currently adopted and set out in the new Constitution) and then consider the size of each Committee. Rules of proportionality then apply to the allocation of the seats. Group Secretaries will then confirm with the Secretary the nominations to fill the allocated seats.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.
 - (a) That the Authority approves the Committee structure.
 - (b) That the Authority determines the size of its Committees.
 - (c) That the Authority determines the allocation of seats on Committees referred to in this report.
 - (d) That the respective Group Secretaries consider the appointment of Members to each Committee (except the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee) by their Groups and submit details at the Annual Meeting or as soon as possible thereafter to the Secretary.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



4. The terms of reference of each Committee are set out in the Constitution.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSING ACT 1989 – POLITICAL BALANCE PROVISIONS

5. Members are reminded that the political balance provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies to the appointment of Committees of the Fire Authority provided that the Authority may, where there is no dissent, make whatever Committee membership arrangements it wishes. The provisions do not apply to the appointment of Independent Co-opted Members of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee.
6. The Fire Authority's membership is divided into political groups and the composition of the respective groups expressed as a proportion of the Fire Authority overall was in 2012/13 as follows:

<u>Political Group</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>As a % of 22 Members</u>
Conservative	10	45.45
Labour	9	40.90
Liberal Democrats	2	9.10
Others (Independent)	1	4.55

For 2013/14 the situation is as follows:

<u>Political Group</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>As a % of 22 Members</u>
Conservative	10	45.45
Labour	9*	40.90
Liberal Democrats	2*	9.10
Others (Independent)	1	4.55

* subject to confirmation from North East Lincolnshire Council of its appointments at its meeting on 23 May 2013

7. Section 15(5) of the Act lays down four principles to be followed when applying political proportionality to the membership of committees as follows:
- (i) that not all the seats on a Committee are allocated to the same political group;
 - (ii) that the majority of seats on a Committee are allocated to the group having a majority of seats on the Fire Authority (**as no political group has a majority of seats on the Authority this provision does not apply**);
 - (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) above the number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Fire Authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of the Authority as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the Authority (see paragraph 6 above);
 - (iv) that subject to (i) to (iii) above the number of seats on a Committee allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Committee as is borne by the Members of that group to the membership of the Authority
8. Members are first asked to consider the appropriate size of each Committee to be effective, and from a decision on size will flow the allocation of seats according to the rules of political proportionality (except in respect to the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee).

9. In line with discussions at the previous meeting of the Authority, it is proposed that the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee should comprise 8 Independent Co-opted Members. As the Authority has agreed that the Committee shall not comprise any Elected Members the Committee is not subject to the rules of political proportionality. The Fire Authority at its meeting on 23 April 2013 agreed to establish a group comprising the Chair and the Group Secretaries (or nominations by the Group Secretaries) and supported by the Secretary/Director of People to begin the process to fill the vacancy on the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee. An oral report will be given at the meeting on progress in identifying suitable persons for co-option.
10. In respect to the Appointments Committee, the seats allocated in 2012/13 was 7 seats. It is recommended that the same size be approved for 2013/14. Similarly it is recommended that the Appeals Committee should comprise 3 Members. The allocations as between the respective political groups is set out below.

Committee	Total Seats	Allocation of Seats		
		Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Appointments Committee	7	3.181	2.863	0.637
		3	3	1
Appeals Committee	3	1.363	1.227	0.273
		1	1	1
Initial allocation	10	4	4	2
Overall entitlement		4.545	4.09	0.91
Adjustment necessary		+ 1	-	- 1

11. With regard to the adjustment, the Fire Authority would simply agree the Committee allocations with no adjustments.
12. Provided the Authority approves Recommendations 2(a) and 2(b), then if the Group Secretaries are in a position to make nominations to the Committees, then the composition of the Fire Authority's Committees can be determined at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee Chairpersons are elected at the first meeting of the relevant Committee.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

13. Not directly relevant.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

14. None arising directly.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. None arising directly.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

16. No direct actions required.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

17. An effective committee structure supports leadership and good governance.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

18. None arising directly.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

19. The structure will be published.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

20. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

21. None.

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

22. (a) That the Authority approves the Committee structure.
- (b) That the Authority determines the size of its Committees.
- (c) That the Authority determines the allocation of seats on Committees referred to in this report.
- (d) That the respective Group Secretaries consider the appointment of Members to each Committee (except the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee) by their Groups and submit details at the Annual Meeting or as soon as possible thereafter to the Secretary.

R GRAHAM

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RG/SJ
16 May 2013