

**REPORT AUTHOR:** SECRETARY/MONITORING OFFICER

**SUBJECT:** REPRESENTATION ON THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS  
COMMITTEE, POLICY AND CHALLENGE GROUPS  
AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR 2018/19

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Background Papers: None

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Implications

LEGAL		FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES		EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	OTHER (please specify)	
	New	CORE BRIEF	

*Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.*

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**PURPOSE:**

To consider representation for 2018/19 on the Fire and Rescue Authority's Audit and Standards Committee; Service Delivery, Corporate Services and Human Resources Policy and Challenge Groups; Strategic Partnerships; Corporate Equality Group and the Blue Light Collaboration Group.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That,

1. Members agree representation for 2018/19 on the Audit and Standards Committee;
  2. Members agree representation for 2018/19 on the Service Delivery, Corporate Services and Human Resources Policy and Challenge Groups;
  3. Members appoint Chairs for 2018/19 to the Audit and Standards Committee; and the Service Delivery, Corporate Services and Human Resources Policy and Challenge Groups;
  4. Members agree representation for 2018/19 for Local Strategic Partnerships.
  5. Members agree the continuation of the representation of Councillor Downing on the Blue Light Collaboration Group.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Democratic and Regulatory Services Supervisor has previously invited indications of interest in membership of the various Fire and Rescue Authority meetings. The Terms of Reference for each Committee/Group will be reviewed at the first meeting of each Committee/Group.

2. Audit and Standards Committee and Policy and Challenge Groups

- 2.1 The Fire and Rescue Authority currently has the following Committee/Policy and Challenge Groups reporting to it:
- Service Delivery Policy and Challenge Group;
  - Corporate Services Policy and Challenge Group;
  - Human Resources Policy and Challenge Group; and
  - Audit and Standards Committee.
- 2.2 As noted elsewhere on the Agenda, it is recommended that an Executive Panel of Members be appointed. Vice Chairs will be appointed at the first annual meeting of each Committee/Group.
- 2.3 Although the Fire and Rescue Authority appoints Members to each Committee/Group, all Members will continue to receive an electronic link to the agendas and papers and are welcome to attend any meeting (although not vote).
- 2.4 At the 2013 AGM, the FRA decided that the membership of the Audit and Standards Committee should no longer be the same as that of the Corporate Services Policy and Challenge Group, as had previously been the position.
- 2.5 It has been previously agreed that the Fire and Rescue Authority Chair and Vice Chair will not be members of the Audit and Standards Committee and the Chair of the Corporate Services Policy and Challenge Group will not act as Chair to the Audit and Standards Committee.
- 2.6 The Audit and Standards Committee is a public meeting and, according to current Standing Orders, has a quorum of a third of its Members, including at least one Member from two of the constituent Councils. This needs to be borne in mind when appointing Members to the Audit and Standards Committee and Members may wish to consider the appointment of at least two Members from each constituent Council.
- 2.7 It has been agreed that each Fire and Rescue Authority Member should serve on a minimum of two of the Policy and Challenge Groups. After the meeting on 26 April 2018, the Chair invited Members to consider some proposals that she had developed regarding the allocation of places on the Policy and Challenge Groups and the Audit Committee and suggested that these new arrangements be adopted at the forthcoming Annual Meeting.

3. Corporate Equality Group

- 3.1 The Chair of the Human Resources Policy and Challenge Group acts as Member representative on the Service's Corporate Equality Group (CEG). The Fire and Rescue Authority previously appointed a Member Diversity Champion to the Corporate Equality Group; at the FRA meeting on 26 May 2016 it was noted that there was no longer a need to appoint a Member Diversity Champion to CEG, as the Chair of the Human Resources Policy and Challenge Group provides sufficient representation on that group.

4. Local Strategic Partnerships

- 4.1 The following Members were nominated for 2017/18 to represent the Fire Authority for possible attendance at Strategic partnerships within Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton:

Bedford  
Central Bedfordshire  
Luton

Councillor J Mingay  
Councillor P Downing  
Councillor Waheed

5. Blue Light Collaboration Group

- 5.1 In April 2016 Councillor Paul Downing was appointed by the Authority to serve on the Collaboration Working Group because of his extensive experience in a strategic role within the Police Service and his membership of the Police and Crime Panel. The Authority is asked to agree that Councillor Downing should continue to attend meetings of the Collaboration Group on its behalf.

**JOHN ATKINSON**  
**SECRETARY/MONITORING OFFICER**