

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority  
6 June 2019  
Item No. 10

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**REPORT AUTHOR:** SECRETARY/MONITORING OFFICER

**SUBJECT:** GOVERNANCE REVIEW, APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER GROUPS

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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		

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

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**PURPOSE:**

To consider for 2019/20:

- Arrangements for decision making between FRA Meetings
- Representation on the Fire and Rescue Authority's Audit and Standards Committee;
- Arrangements for representing the Fire Authority on Strategic Partnerships and the Blue Light Collaboration Group
- Arrangements for reporting to Constituent Councils on meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That

1. Members agree representation for 2019/20 on the Audit and Standards Committee;
  2. Members appoint a Chair for 2019/20 to the Audit and Standards Committee;
  3. Decisions taken in between times, pending an Executive Committee, be taken by the CFO in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair;
  4. Members agree representation for 2019/20 for Local Strategic Partnerships;
  5. Members agree representation for 2019/20 for Blue Light Collaboration Group;
  6. A Member from each Constituent Council be authorised to report to their respective Constituent Council on the meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority for 2019/20.
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### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 At the Fire Authority meeting on 28 March 2019 in relation to the Governance Review, it was resolved that proposals be discussed by Members at the next Member Development Day (2 July 2019) with appointments to Committees and Policy and Challenge Groups being deferred from the Annual Meeting to the following Authority meeting (18 July 2019) to enable a report to be produced summarising the discussions held at the Member Development Day.
- 1.2 This decision has resulted in changes to the FRA agenda and programme of meetings with there being no appointments to the Policy and Challenge Groups until the July Fire Authority meeting. The first meetings of the Policy and Challenge Groups will not take place until September.
- 1.3 Any urgent decisions required between the Annual Meeting and the appointment of Chairs comprising the Executive Committee will need to be made by the CFO following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.
- 1.4 Due to timescales in relation to the Draft 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Accounts and Letter of Representation needing to be approved by the Audit and Standards Committee in July, appointments will need to be made to the Audit and Standards Committee with their first meeting on 10 July 2019.

2. Audit and Standards Committee

- 2.1 It has previously been agreed that the Fire and Rescue Authority Chair and Vice Chair will not be members of the Audit and Standards Committee
- 2.2 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.

3. Local Strategic Partnerships

- 3.1 Members are requested to consider arrangements to represent the Fire Authority for possible attendance at Strategic Partnerships within Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton for 2019/20.

4. Blue Light Collaboration Group

- 4.1 Members are requested to consider arrangements to represent the Fire Authority on the Collaboration Working Group for 2019/20.

5. Authorisation of Members to Report to the Constituent Councils on Meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority

- 5.1 Arrangements agreed between the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Constituent Councils have previously provided for a representative of the Constituent Council on the Fire and Rescue Authority (whether the Chair or another Member), to report on meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority to the Constituent Council, and answer any questions relating to the discharge of the Fire and Rescue Authority's functions.
- 5.2 Members are requested to consider arrangements to report to constituent authorities during 2019/20

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