



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

25 June 2024

Representation on Other Bodies 2024/25

Report of the Clerk to the Authority

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to agree the appointments process of Members of the Combined Fire Authority's to the Other Bodies for 2024/25.

Background

The current position

2. The current appointment criteria as set out in the Appointment to External Bodies Report dated June 2023 (Appendix A) which was approved by the CFA at the AGM in June 2023 is that the appointment to outside bodies should be based on political proportionality.
3. This criteria was first proposed at the AGM in June 2021 following the change in political balance as a result of the elections in May 2021.

4. Prior to this change being agreed in June 2021 there was no requirement for appointment to any outside bodies to be based on political proportionality.

The legal position

5. Whilst section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out a requirement for appointments to Committees of a relevant authority to be based on political balance there is no such provision for appointment to outside bodies. As such it is considered that there is no legal basis that requires CDDFRS to appoint to outside bodies based on political proportionality. Therefore, it is considered that there are no legal implications of removing the criteria for appointments to outside bodies to be based on political proportionality.
6. The Authority is required to agree at its annual meeting the appointments to the Other Bodies where the Authority is represented. Those Other Bodies are detailed in the table below together with the membership in the second column.

Other Bodies	Nominated Member
Appointment of Representatives to the Local Government Association.	Cllr R Bell
Appointment of a Representative to the Local Government Association Fire Commission	Cllr J Shuttleworth
Appointment of Directors to the Community Interest Company	1x Labour member 1x Joint Administration member 1x DBC member
Appointment of Directors to Vital Fire Solutions Ltd	1x Labour member 1x Joint Administration member 1x DBC member

Recommendation

1. Members are requested to:
 - i. **Agree** that the criteria for appointment to other bodies to be based on political proportionality be removed.

- ii. **Agree** the appointments as set out in the table at paragraph 6.
- iii. **Authorise** the Clerk, in consultation with the appropriate Group Leader(s), to make appointments to the Other Bodies which the Authority are invited to nominate,
- iv. **Authorise** the Clerk, in consultation with the Group Leader(s), to make any changes to membership of the Other Bodies that may arise during 2024/25.