

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

14th April 2014

1. CHAIR'S COMMITTEE

Report of the Clerk to the Authority and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That a Chair's Committee be established to deal with all matters of an urgent nature which, in the opinion of the Clerk/Monitoring Officer, cannot be reasonably delayed until the next ordinary meeting of the Authority or the appropriate Committee;
- (2) That the Chair's Committee comprise the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority, the Leader of the Opposition and two further members, and that the Authority appoint members to serve on the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year;
- (3) That for clarity, the provision to deal with urgent matters be deleted from the terms of reference of the Executive Committee;
- (4) That the Clerk/Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report proposes the establishment of a Chair's Committee to deal with urgent matters and any other issues allocated to it by the Authority from time to time.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Executive Committee currently deals with all matters of an urgent nature that cannot be delayed until the next ordinary meeting of the Authority or the relevant committee.

The Executive Committee is, however, relatively large, with a membership of ten members, and not easy to convene at short notice. It is suggested that a smaller committee be established to deal with urgent items. A similar arrangement has operated previously in the Authority.

- 3.2 It is proposed that the Chair's Committee comprise the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority, together with the Leader of the Opposition and two other members [five members in all]. The creation of a further committee affects the total number of seats in the proportionality calculation for this municipal year and suggests an allocation of seats on this Committee in the proportion Labour 3; Conservative 1; Liberal Democrat 1.

4. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change and an Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Authority is bound by the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 and the accompanying regulations in how it allocates seats on committees.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is not anticipated that any costs will be incurred from the proposals set out in this report and in any event they would be met from existing budgets.

**N SHARMA
CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
AND MONITORING OFFICER**