

MEMBER PORTFOLIOS 2008/2009

Chair of the Authority

To provide overall political leadership and strategic policy direction to the Authority.

To ensure continuous improvement in service delivery and the implementation of best practice through the application of Authority policy and all relevant legislation, regulations, directives and statutory requirements affecting the work of the Authority.

To chair the Executive and Appointments Committees and any other meetings as required by the Authority;

To serve as a representative on other bodies as nominated by the Authority.

To represent the Authority at any meetings as may be required from time to time in connection with the work of the Authority at local, regional, national or international level.

To take overall political responsibility within the Authority for:

- Corporate Planning, the Corporate Strategy and the Annual Service Plan;
- Comprehensive Performance Assessment;
- Policy and budgetary strategy formulation;
- Modernisation issues;
- Local, regional, national and international issues;
- Health and Safety;
- Implementing E-Governance (IEG) and the Freedom of Information Act 2000;
- Corporate Risk Management and the Integrated Risk Management Plan;
- Procurement;
- Press and media relations and the promotion of the image of the Authority;
- Civic and ceremonial issues;
- Equality and Diversity;
- Sustainability;

- Any other initiatives as from time to time may be adopted by or imposed on the Authority.

To oversee the efficient and effective conduct of business within the Authority and to work with other Elected Members on issues that cut across or fall within the terms of reference or portfolios of other Members, Committees or Panels.

To ensure the proper implementation of decisions of the Authority and its Committees and to ensure that due consideration is given to any recommendations arising from those Committees.

To ensure the involvement of local people and communities in the decision making processes of the Authority, as necessary.

To undertake his/her duties in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct and any other policies, procedures or protocols which may be adopted by the Authority from time to time.

Vice-Chair of the Authority

To support and assist the Chair of the Authority to provide overall political leadership and strategic policy direction to the Authority.

To support continuous improvement in service delivery and the implementation of best practice through the application of Authority policy and all relevant legislation, regulations, directives and statutory requirements affecting the work of the Authority.

To Chair the Authority, relevant Committees or other meetings as may be required, in the absence or inability to act of the Chair of the Authority;

To serve as a representative on other bodies as nominated by the Authority.

To represent the Authority at any meetings as required from time to time in connection with the work of the Authority at local, regional, national or international level.

To support and assist the Chair of the Authority to fulfil his/her overall political management responsibilities within the Authority for:

- Corporate Planning, the Corporate Strategy and the Annual Service Plan;
- Comprehensive Performance Assessment;
- Policy and budgetary strategy formulation;
- Modernisation issues;
- Local, regional, national and international issues;
- Health and Safety;
- Implementing E-Governance (IEG) and the Freedom of Information Act 2000;
- Risk Management and the Integrated Risk Management Plan;
- Procurement;
- Press and media relations and the promotion of the image of the Authority;
- Civic and ceremonial issues;
- Equality and Diversity;
- Sustainability;
- Any other initiatives as from time to time may be adopted by or imposed on the Authority.

To take lead responsibility on any specific initiatives that may be required from time to time by the Authority, the Chair of the Authority or one of its Committees or Panels.

To assist and support the Chair in the efficient and effective conduct of business within the Authority and to work with other Elected Members on issues that cut across or fall within the terms of reference or portfolios of other Members, Committees or Panels.

To assist in ensuring the proper implementation of decisions of the Authority and its Committees and to ensure that due consideration is given to any recommendations arising from those Committees.

To assist in ensuring the involvement of local people and communities in the decision-making processes of the Authority, as necessary.

To undertake his/her duties in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct and any other policies, procedures or protocols which may be adopted by the Authority from time to time.

Lead Member for Equality and Diversity

To take a leading role within the Authority for:-

- standards and targets being achieved in relation to equality and diversity.
- the development and maintenance of a positive approach in relation to equality and diversity with regard to employment and service delivery and to celebrate diversity within the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.
- The various Equality Schemes.

To support continuous improvement in service delivery and the implementation of best practice through the application of Authority policy and all relevant legislation, regulations, directives and statutory requirements affecting the work of the Authority.

To chair and participate in any other meetings as may be required from time to time by the Authority.

To serve as a representative on other bodies as nominated by the Authority.

To represent the Authority at any meetings as required from time to time in connection with the work of the Authority at local, regional, national or international level.

To take lead responsibility on any specific initiatives that may be required from time to time by the Authority, the Chair of the Authority or one of its Committees or Panels.

To chair task and finish groups as required from time to time and take the lead on all aspects relating to Equality and Diversity.

To assist and support the efficient and effective conduct of business within the Authority and to work with other elected Members on issues that cut across or fall within the terms of reference or portfolios of other Members, Committees or Panels.

To assist in ensuring the proper implementation of decisions of the

Authority and its Committees and to ensure that due consideration is given to any recommendations.

To assist in ensuring the involvement of local people and communities in the decision-making processes of the Authority, as necessary.

To undertake his/her duties in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct and any other policies, procedures or protocols adopted by the Authority from time to time.

Lead Member for Performance Management

To take a leading role within the Authority for ensuring:-

- that existing service provision has been fully and appropriately challenged and that viable alternatives have been considered.
- that appropriate comparisons have been made with other organisations in the setting of performance measures, performance targets and benchmarking.
- that full and appropriate consultation has taken place regarding the outcomes of Best Value Reviews.
- that full consideration has been given to and appropriate use has been made of competition in the process of service provision.
- that issues relating to performance management and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment are considered.

To represent the Authority on matters related to all aspects of CPA including Service Assessment, Use of Resources and Direction of Travel.

To take a leading role in respect of ensuring data quality.

To support continuous improvement in service delivery and the implementation of best practice through the application of Authority policy and all relevant legislation, regulations, directives and statutory requirements affecting the work of the Authority.

To chair and participate in any other meetings as may be required from time to time by the Authority.

To serve as a representative on other bodies as nominated by the Authority.

To represent the Authority at any meetings as required from time to time in connection with the work of the Authority at local, regional, national or international level.

To take lead responsibility on any specific initiatives that may be required from time to time by the Authority, the Chair of the Authority or one of its Committees or Panels.

To chair task and finish groups as required from time to time and take the lead on all aspects relating to Performance Management and Measurement.

To assist and support the efficient and effective conduct of business within the Authority and to work with other Elected Members on issues that cut across or fall within the terms of reference or portfolios of other Members, Committees or Panels.

To assist in ensuring the proper implementation of decisions of the Authority and its Committees and to ensure that due consideration is given to any recommendations.

To assist in ensuring the involvement of local people and communities in the decision-making processes of the Authority, as necessary.

To undertake his/her duties in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct and any other policies, procedures or protocols adopted by the Authority from time to time.

Lead Member for Human Resources

To take a leading role within the Authority for:-

- targets being achieved in relation to human resources
- the implementation of the recruitment action plan
- regular consultation between the Authority and its recognised representative bodies, as appropriate

To support continuous improvement in service delivery and the implementation of best practice through the application of Authority policy and all relevant legislation, regulations, directives and statutory requirements affecting the work of the Authority.

To chair and participate in any other meetings as may be required from time to time by the Authority.

To serve as a representative on other bodies as nominated by the Authority.

To represent the Authority at any meetings as required from time to time in connection with the work of the Authority at local, regional, national or international level.

To take lead responsibility on any specific initiatives that may be required from time to time by the Authority, the Chair of the Authority or one of its Committees or Panels.

To chair task and finish groups as required from time to time and take the lead on all aspects relating to Human Resources

To assist and support the efficient and effective conduct of business within the Authority and to work with other elected Members on issues that cut across or fall within the terms of reference or portfolios of other Members, Committees or Panels.

To assist in ensuring the proper implementation of decisions of the Authority and its Committees and to ensure that due consideration is given to any recommendations.

To assist in ensuring the involvement of local people and communities in the decision-making processes of the Authority, as necessary.

To undertake his/her duties in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct and any other policies, procedures or protocols adopted by the Authority from time to time.

Constitution and Terms of Reference 2008/2009

Executive Committee

To deal with all matters of an urgent nature which cannot reasonably be delayed until the next ordinary meeting of the Authority or appropriate committee.

To consider and monitor the Authority's budget as necessary and to make appropriate recommendations.

To award contracts in circumstances where it is recommended to accept other than the lowest tender received.

To open and accept tenders for contracts where the estimated value exceeds £100,000.

To deal with matters that can be dealt with locally as part of the modernisation agenda.

To consider recommendations arising from meetings of the West Midlands Regional Management Board.

To deal with matters relating to the Members Allowances Scheme.

To consider and make recommendations to the Authority on the conditions of service and salary of the posts of Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Assistant Chief Officers.

To approve arrangements for partnership working, funding and/or goods, works or services provided freely from external sources, including external funding agreements, above £20,000 in value.

To deal with any other matters referred to it by the Authority.

To submit its minutes to the Authority.

Audit Committee

Audit Activity

Approve the internal audit strategy.

Consider the Audit Services annual report and opinion, and a summary of internal audit activity and the level of assurance it gives over the Authority's governance, risk management and internal control arrangements.

Consider any summaries of internal audit activity and specific internal audit reports requested by the Committee.

Consider reports dealing with the management and performance of Audit Services where necessary.

Consider a report from Audit Services on the timeliness of management responses to internal audit reports and on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale.

Consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor and the report to those charged with governance where necessary.

Comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.

Liaise with the Audit Commission over the appointment of the Authority's external auditor.

Regulatory Framework

Maintain an overview of contract procedure rules and financial regulations.

Review any issue referred to it by the Chief Fire Officer, Clerk or Treasurer, or any Authority body.

Monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the Authority.

Monitor Authority policies on 'Raising Concerns at Work', the anti-fraud and anti-corruption strategy and the Authority's complaints process.

Oversee the production of the Authority's Governance Statement¹ and to recommend its adoption.

Consider the Authority's arrangements for corporate governance and recommending necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice.

Consider the Authority's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.

Accounts

Review the annual statement of accounts, and specifically, consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Authority.

Consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

To deal with any other matters referred to it by the Authority.

To submit its minutes to the Authority.

Appointments Committee

To make the appointments of the Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Assistant Chief Officers.

To shortlist and interview candidates for appointment as independent Members of the Standards Committee, and to make a recommendation to the Authority as to the person/s to be appointed.

To submit its minutes to the Authority.

Appeals Committee

To hear and decide upon:-

Disputes under the national conditions of service for uniformed and non-uniformed personnel.

Appeals under the Firemen's Pension Scheme Order.

Appeals under the Local Government Superannuation Regulations.

To submit its minutes to the Authority.

Policy Planning Forum

To provide for the consideration of key policy areas affecting the Authority and service delivery.

To submit its notes to the Authority.

Standards Committee

To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members of the Authority.

To assist Members of the Authority to observe the Authority's Code of Conduct, specifically:-

To advise the Authority on the adoption or revision of a Code of Conduct.

To monitor the operation of the Authority's Code of Conduct.

To advise, train or arrange for training for Members of the Authority on matters relating to the Authority's Code of Conduct.

To determine, monitor and review the arrangements for the local ethical standards regime and carrying out any functions reserved to the Standards Committee under those arrangements.

To appoint Sub-Committees with delegated power:

- a. To discharge any function specified in Section 57A of the Local Government Act 2000 (initial assessment of allegations of Member misconduct);
- b. To discharge any function specified in Section 57B of the Local Government Act 2000 (review of decision of Assessment Sub-Committee)
- c. To conduct local hearings under Regulation 10 of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

The granting of dispensations to Members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Code of Conduct for Members.

The granting of exemptions in respect of politically restricted posts.

To exercise any functions which the Authority may consider appropriate from time to time.

To submit its minutes to the Authority.