

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

1. **MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY**

Report of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Authority appoints Councillor Barlow to serve on Committees and Panels, and amends substitute membership on the Executive Committee, as appropriate.
- 1.2 THAT further nominations of substitute members for Committees and Panels be agreed at the meeting.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To notify the Authority of a change to its membership and to appoint substitute members for Labour members on various Committees and Panels.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Notification was received from Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council by a letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 that Councillor Nicolas Barlow has replaced Councillor Patrick Harley on the Authority. Councillor Barlow's term of office commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.
- 3.2 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that where a joint authority is divided into different political groups, it shall review the representation of those groups. It also has a duty following such a review, to determine the allocation of committee seats to the different political groups into which the Authority is divided. Regulations provide for a political group to comprise two or more members.

Based on the information available to me the political balance of the Authority, taking into account this change in membership, remains as follows:

Conservative	9
Labour	17
Liberal Democrat	1

The change in membership does not make a difference to political balance on Committees and Panels.

- 3.3 Councillor Harley served on the Appointments Committee and the Standards Committee. It is suggested that Councillor Barlow replace Councillor Harley on those bodies.
- 3.4 It will also be necessary for a revised nomination to be made in respect of a substitute member for Councillor Douglas-Maul on the Executive Committee.
- 3.5 Although Labour members were appointed to Committees and Panels at the Annual Meeting of the Authority on 21 July 2014, no provision was made for other members to act as their substitutes. Labour Group nominations for substitute members for Committees and Panels for the remainder of the year ending with the Annual meeting in 2015 will be submitted to the meeting.

#### 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.

#### 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 31 of the Local Government Act 1985 provides that a constituent council may at any time terminate the appointment of a person appointed by it to a joint authority and appoint another member of the Council in their place.

#### 6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications arising from change in membership of the Authority or the appointment of substitute members to Committees and Panels.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Letter from Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council dated 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.

The contact name for this report is Rosemary Jones, Democratic Services Unit, telephone number 0121 569 3896.

NEERAJ SHARMA  
CLERK & MONITORING OFFICER