

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

25 JUNE 2018

1. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE AUTHORITY

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT Members approve the appointment of the Co-opted Members to the Authority.

THAT Members note the arrangements for Co-opted Members including:

- Authority and Committee membership
- Allowances and expenses

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to the Authority to seek approval of the appointment of the Co-opted Members to the Authority.

For the purpose of this report, the co-opted members invited to take up a position on the Authority are as follows:

- Professor Simon Brake, Chief Officer, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group
- A representative from the Black Country Consortium

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Authority's political governance arrangements ensure adherence to the following principles:

- To be best placed to respond to a range of internal and external issues, to deliver on its commitment to value for money and other key objectives in the Authority's

strategic planning document 'The Plan', and

- Decision making processes that are open, transparent, accountable and inclusive in line with government expectations on strengthening local democracy

3.2 As part of the Authority's 'route to future governance' approved at the Authority meeting held on 20 February 2017, and as outlined within the report 'Governance of the Authority 2017/2018' submitted to the Authority on 26 June 2017, the Authority opened its membership to four co-opted members, as part of the move to a Reformed Fire Authority and to further enhance collaborative working with partner organisations. Following developments as part of the future governance work stream, the number of co-opted members was subsequently revised to two.

3.3 Co-opted members whilst not full voting members are expected to:

- Support the Authority in its actions promoting good governance of the Authority, balancing the needs of the whole community of the West Midlands
- Support and actively promote the work of the Authority in the provision of fire and rescue services across the whole of the West Midlands
- On a regular basis attend meetings of the Authority and any committees/sub committees as appointed
- Promote Effective Collaboration
- At all times, act in accordance with the code of conduct and standing orders for the Authority where applicable
- Be actively aware of the issues internal and external relevant to the provision of services to promote a safer, stronger and healthier West Midlands Community.

3.4 Two co-opted members have been proposed from partner agencies and organisations, aligned to the vision of the Service of 'making the West Midlands safer, stronger and healthier'. The co-opted members proposed to join the Authority are:

- Professor Simon Brake, Chief Officer, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group
- A representative from the Black Country Consortium

- 3.5 The proposal of the above co-opted members has been made based on the skills, experience and collaborative focus they can bring to the Authority, whilst still broadly aligning to the expectations set out in the aforementioned 2017 Authority reports. Both co-optee proposals bring considerable experience and influence within their respective sectors of health, community and business, complimenting and enhancing the Authority's commitment to collaborative working and continued improvement. A biography for Professor Simon Brake is detailed within Appendix 1.

Fire Authority and Committee Membership

- 3.6 The co-opted members representing business and health may be granted positions on the Fire Authority and on respective Committees of the Authority. The terms of reference for the following committees will enable a co-opted member to attend: Audit and Risk, Governance and Transformation and/or Scrutiny Committee).
- 3.7 The co-opted members representing business and health will not have voting rights at full authority or any committee.
- 3.8 Committee membership, terms of reference, and a role description for co-opted members is detailed within the report 'Governance of the Authority 2018/19'.

Allowances and Expenses

- 3.9 Allowances and expenses are in accordance with the Members' Allowance Scheme (Part 6 of the Constitution) and as detailed within the report 'Governance of the Authority 2018/19'.
- 3.10 Co-opted members are not subject to receipt of an allowance (with the exception of independent members on the Audit Committee).
- 3.11 Expenses can be claimed under certain circumstances, for example, travel outside of the West Midlands county whilst on official business. Full information is available in the documents referenced above.

- 3.12 The arrangements outlined above are to be subject to an independent review of members' allowances which will be undertaken in line with the approval of the revised committee and member terms of reference (as detailed within the report 'Governance of the Authority 2018/19').

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**

Sections 15-17 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 allows the appointment of non-elected members (co-opted) to the Fire Authority.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report other than those in line with the Members' Allowance Scheme.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Route Map to a Mayoral WMCA Governance – a Reformed Fire Authority (April 2017)

Governance of the Authority 2018/19

The Constitution (of the WMFRA)

Members' Allowance Scheme (Part 6 of The Constitution)

The contact name for this report is Karen Gowreesunker, telephone number 0121 380 6678.

Karen Gowreesunker
CLERK to the Authority

Appendix 1

Biographies

- Professor Simon Brake

Simon has overall strategic and managerial responsibility for the operations, governance and public accountability of the Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), deputising for Paul Maubach as Accountable Officer, and ensuring that the CCG meets its statutory obligations to commission the best quality services and provide the best value for money for the population of Walsall.

Simon is vice chair of the West Midlands Clinical Senate, and holds honorary academic chairs at the University of Warwick's Medical School and Coventry University's Faculty of Life Sciences.

He has worked in health and social care in a variety of roles at local, regional and national levels for the past twenty years. After graduating from the University of Warwick with a degree in Politics with International Study, Simon trained as general manager in the National Health Service and has worked as an operational general manager in several acute hospitals, as a specialist health commissioner on a regional and national level, and as a civil servant at the Department of Health.

Simon has also completed an MBA (Masters in Public Administration) at Warwick Business School, an ERASMUS year at the Sciences-Po Bordeaux, France, as well as post graduate studies in conflict resolution. His most recent roles have been as Chief Executive of Coventry and Rugby GP Federation, Director of Primary Care for Coventry & Rugby NHS and Assistant Director of Adult Social Services for Coventry City Council.

Ref: [Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group](#)