

CHESHIRE EAST

GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Date of meeting: 8 September 2008

Report of: Governance Lead Officer

Title: Appointments to the Cheshire Fire Authority

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To make appointments to the Cheshire Fire Authority.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1. The appointment of 8 members to the Cheshire Fire Authority as representatives of Cheshire East Council from 1 April 2009 for a period of 3 years (to 2011) acting as observers prior to that date.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 None

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Fire Authority is currently the Combined Fire Authority for Cheshire, Halton and Warrington in accordance with the Cheshire Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1997. In the light of LGR a new combination order is required to create the Combined Fire Authority of Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, Halton and Warrington.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 Delay in appointing members to the Fire Authority may limit opportunities for members to familiarise themselves with their role prior to 1 April 2009 and engage in budget and strategy planning for 09/10.

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 The constitution of the Cheshire Fire Authority currently requires the appointment of 14 representatives from Cheshire County Council, 4 from Warrington Borough Council and 3 from Halton Borough Council

- 7.2. A new combination order is currently being drafted to reflect the changes implemented by LGR. The Fire Authority is proposing that the overall size of the Authority should be increased to 23 places, and that 8 elected members be appointed by both Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East from 1 April 2009. Prior to that date those members will have observer status.
- 7.3. The Fire Authority has requested nominations be made as soon as possible to enable those members to engage in budget and strategy setting for 09/10.
- 7.4. The term of office is at the discretion of this authority. It is recommended that appointments are made for 3 years to 2011 to tie in with member's term of office.

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1 Representatives of Cheshire East Council to the Fire Authority need to be in place by 1 April 2009.

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 9.1 Appointment of members to the Cheshire Fire Authority is a legal requirement. Early appointment of members as observers will enable them to become familiar with their role and facilitate any necessary training.

For further information:

Officer: Mike Flynn, Governance Lead Officer

Tel No: 01244 972260

Email: mike.flynn@cheshire.gov.uk

Background Documents:

Nil