

# 0CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Report to Council

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Date of Meeting:	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2011
Report of:	Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	<b>Appointments to Cheshire Fire Authority and Joint Cheshire Pension Fund Committee</b>

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 The report invites Council to review appointments to Cheshire Fire Authority and the Cheshire Pension Fund Committee.

### **2.0 Decision Requested**

- 2.1 Council is asked to review and appoint –
- (a) Eight Councillors to the Cheshire Fire Authority; and
  - (b) Four Councillors to the Cheshire Pension Fund Committee

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 These bodies carry out important functions and appointments are needed to ensure that the Council meets its obligations.

### **4.0 Background and Options**

#### **Cheshire Fire Authority.**

- 4.1 The Fire Authority was the Combined Fire Authority for Cheshire, Halton and Warrington in accordance with the Cheshire Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1997. The constitution of the Cheshire Fire Authority required the appointment of 14 representatives.
- 4.2 As a consequence of local government restructuring in Cheshire the Authority was changed to the Combined Fire Authority of Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, Halton and Warrington and its membership was increased to 23 places. The allocation of seats is:-

Halton - 3 Member  
Warrington - 4 Members  
Cheshire West and Chester - 8 Members  
Cheshire East - 8 Members.

- 4.3 The Clerk to the Fire Authority has confirmed that the appointments made by Cheshire East must reflect the political proportionality of the Council. On this basis the allocation of seats after the Crewe South Election is as follows:

	<b>Con</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Cheshire Fire Authority 8 seats	5 (5.07)	2 (1.56)	1 (0.98)	0 (0.39)

- 4.4 At the Annual Meeting of Council Councillors J Weatherill, W Livesley, D Topping, G Merry, C Thorley, R Fletcher and D Brickhill were nominated to serve on the Cheshire Fire Authority.

### **Pension Fund Committee**

- 4.5 Cheshire East has 4 representatives on the Pension Fund Committee and these were appointed for an unspecified term of office during the shadow year.

The Pension Fund Committee's Terms of Reference are as follows:

- To exercise the administering authority's responsibility for the management of the Cheshire Pension Fund, including the management of the administration of the benefits and strategic management of Fund assets.
- To meet quarterly, or otherwise as necessary, to effectively monitor investment activities during the year.
- To have overall responsibility for investment policy and monitor overall performance.
- To oversee the appointment and termination of investment managers.
- To establish performance benchmarks and targets for investment managers.
- To review governance arrangements and the effective use of its advisors to ensure good decision-making.
- To oversee the Pensions Consultative Forum (PCF) arrangement and compliance with best practice.
- To receive regular reports from the PCF on Scheme administration to ensure that best practice standards are satisfied and met and to satisfy itself and justify to stakeholders that the Fund is being run on an effective basis.

- To approve and maintain a Statement of Investment Principles, Funding Strategy Statement, Communication Policy, Governance Compliance Statement and publish a Pension Fund Annual Report.

4.6 The Committee has the following membership:

Cheshire West and Chester Council Elected Members 4 (voting rights)  
Cheshire East Council Elected Members 4 (voting rights)  
Warrington Borough Council Elected Members 1 (voting rights)  
Halton Borough Council Elected Members 1 (voting rights)  
Employee representative Unison Representative 1 (No Voting Rights)

4.7 Council is asked to confirm the Council's appointments for a further four year term office. The Council's representatives are Councillors Fitzgerald, Keegan and Mason. The final representative was former Councillor Narraway.

## **5.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

5.1 To determine Councils representation on the two bodies

### ***For further information:***

*Officer: Paul Jones Democratic Services Team Manager*

*Tel No: 01270 686458*

*Email: paul.jones4@cheshire.gov.uk*

***Background Documents: None***