

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

COUNCIL

Date of Meeting:	14 May 2014
Report of:	Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Subject/Title:	Appointments to Cheshire Fire Authority and the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report invites Council to make Appointments to Cheshire Fire Authority and the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to appoint –
- (a) three Councillors to the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel, and
 - (b) eight Councillors to Cheshire Fire Authority

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

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

4.0 Background and Options

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

- 4.1 In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 arrangements were made for the election of a Police Commissioner to replace the Cheshire Police Authority in November 2012
- 4.2 Section 28 required each Police area to establish a Police and Crime Panel (PCP). The Local Government Association had produced guidance on the formation of Police and Crime Panels and suggested that their main responsibilities would be to:
- To review and make a report or recommendation on the draft police and crime plan, or draft variation, given to the panel by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
 - To review, put questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner at a public meeting, and make a report or recommendation (as necessary) on the annual report.

- To hold a confirmation hearing and review, make a report, and recommendation (as necessary) in respect of proposed senior appointments made by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- To review and make a report on the proposed appointment of the Chief Constable.
- To review and make a report and recommendation (as necessary) on the proposed precept.
- To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the commissioner's functions.
- To make reports or recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner with respect to the discharge of the commissioner's functions.
- To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- To fulfil functions in relation to complaints about conduct matters, in accordance with the responsibilities accorded to the panel by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- To appoint an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner if necessary.
- To suspend the Police and Crime Commissioner if it appears to the panel that the Commissioner has been charged in the United Kingdom or Isle of Man with an offence which carries a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years.

4.3 The Cheshire Police and Crime Panel comprises 10 Councillors appointed by the constituent Councils and the allocation of seats to Cheshire Cheshire East is 3.

4.4 The Council's current representatives are Councillors J P Findlow, W Fitzgerald, and H Murray. The nominated substitute is Councillor L Brown.

Cheshire Fire Authority

4.5 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.

4.6 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 Members

Warrington - 4 Members

Cheshire West and Chester - 8 Members

Cheshire East - 8 Members

4.7 The current members are Councillors M Simon, J Weatherill, W Livesley, D Topping, G Merry, C Thorley, D Flude and D Brickhill.

5.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

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