



**MEETING: 22 January 2024**

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**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES OF THE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of vacancies that have arisen on the Governance Committee and Personnel Appeals Committee, and ask Members to consider appointing to these positions.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Sunderland City Council gave notice to the Chief Fire Officer of its intention to appoint Cllr Antony Mullen to the Authority, in place of Cllr George Smith. This change in appointment was a consequence of a change to the majority party in opposition at Sunderland City Council.
- 2.2 In accordance with s31(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1985, Cllr Mullen's appointment to the Fire Authority took effect from 17 December 2023, one month after the date on which notice of the change was served.

**3.0 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

- 3.1 As a result of this change to the membership of the Authority, a vacancy has arisen on both the Governance Committee and Personnel Appeals Committee.
- 3.2 The current distribution of seats on the Governance Committee and Personnel Appeals Committee is as follows:
- Governance Committee - 5 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat
  - Personnel Appeals Committee - 5 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat
- 3.3 Cllr George Smith was a member of the Labour Group at the date of his departure from the Fire Authority, but was originally appointed to both the Governance Committee and Personnel Appeals Committee as a Liberal Democrat representative. This appointment was confirmed as part of business conducted at the Authority's Annual meeting in June 2023.
- 3.4 The Authority is reminded of the duty, under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to maintain political balance on these Committees, or to

approve alternative arrangements pursuant to s17 of the 1989 Act. A resolution to approve “alternative arrangements” requires a unanimous decision of the Authority.

- 3.5 As such, the Authority may wish to receive nominations from the Liberal Democrat group to these vacant positions.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

The Authority is recommended to consider the appointment of Members to the Governance Committee and the Personnel Appeals Committee.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A