

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Representation on Outside Bodies – Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and Thames Valley Police Authority
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	02 June 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2301

Purpose of Report: To consider West Berkshire Council nominations to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and Thames Valley Police Authority.

Recommended Action: To agree the Council's representation on the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and Thames Valley Police Authority

Reason for decision to be taken: The Council is required to make appointments to certain Outside Bodies on a four yearly cycle

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: None.

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Graham Jones
E-mail Address:	gjones@westberks.gov.uk
Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Moira Fraser
Job Title:	Democratic Services Manager
Tel. No.:	01635 519045
E-mail Address:	mfraser@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	None
Financial:	Councillors are entitled to claim travel and subsistence allowances for attendance at these meetings. This can be met from within existing budgets.
Personnel:	None
Legal/Procurement:	None
Environmental:	None
Partnering:	None
Property:	None
Risk Management:	None
Community Safety:	None
Equalities:	Not required

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Both political groups have been consulted via the Group Executives.
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	Both political groups have been consulted via the Group Executives.
Ward Members:	N/a
Opposition Spokesperson:	The Leader of the Opposition noted that in previous years it had been agreed that representation on the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority would be split 4-1 for the first two years of Council (2007-09) and 3-2 for the subsequent two years (2009-11). Councillor Brooks requested that consideration be given to repeating this pattern during the current term of office.
Local Stakeholders:	Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and Thames Valley Police
Officers Consulted:	Andy Day, David Holling, Corporate Board, Robin Steel, Susan Chivers
Trade Union:	Not consulted

Is this item subject to call-in.	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:</p> <p>The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Item is Urgent Key Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p>		

Supporting Information

1. Background

1.1 Background – Royal Berkshire Fire Authority

- 1.2 Five Members of the Council are required to serve as Members of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority. Members are responsible for setting the Fire and Rescue Service operating budget and determining how the service is run. The Fire Authority comprises 26 local councillors appointed by the six unitary authorities in the county: Bracknell Forest Borough Council (3 seats); Reading Borough Council (5 seats); Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (4 seats); Slough Borough Council (4 seats); West Berkshire Council (5 seats) and Wokingham District Council (5 seats).
- 1.3 Appointments to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority are made on a proportionality basis based on the electoral roll. Meetings of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority take place in the evenings, on a quarterly basis, at various venues in the County.
- 1.4 At the Executive meeting held on 17 May 2007, it was agreed that the decision regarding Member representation on this outside body would be delegated to the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. The appointments will be made based on the Council's proportionality rules.
- 1.5 On the 27 April 2009 West Berkshire Council's Monitoring Officer received a request from the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority 'to have greater certainty in its membership' and they therefore requested that the Council 'consider making those appointments for a period of 4 years or, if this is unacceptable, for such period as your authority determines'. Officers considered this request and suggested that the Council aligned the appointments to the Council's election cycle. Therefore following the local elections in May 2011 it is proposed that the Councillors be appointed for a four year period.
- 1.6 The Chairman and Chief Fire Officer have written to the Chief Executive and Group Leaders asking the Council to consider their letter and the enclosures when making appointments to the Fire Authority. A copy of their letter and enclosed documents is set out in Appendix B. Members should note that a member appointed to this Fire Authority is expected to attend all Fire Authority meetings and to serve on at least one committee or working party. The schedule of meetings is appended to this report.
- 1.7 It was agreed that these longer term appointments will be at the discretion of the Leader of the Council and will be reviewed if required. The Leader is therefore asked to confirm and if necessary amend the appointments for the four year period until May 2015.
- 1.8 The representatives for the previous period were Councillors Jeff Brooks, Paul Bryant, Adrian Edwards, Owen Jeffery and Emma Webster.
- 1.9 The following Members have expressed an interest in being nominated to this Outside Body:
- Councillors Jeff Brooks, Paul Bryant, Adrian Edwards, David Holtby and Emma Webster.

2. Background - Thames Valley Police Authority

- 2.1 The Thames Valley Police Authority (TVPA) consists of 19 members, of whom 10 are elected Members (one each from the six Berkshire unitaries, Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire County Council and two from Oxfordshire County Council). The membership of the TVPA is appointed by the TVPA Joint Committee, who must have regard to the political balance across the Thames Valley area (based upon the total number of council seats held by each party). Should the Joint Committee decide that a change in membership of the TVPA is required the normal practice is for the Joint Committee to invite local authorities to nominate a representative who meets with the requirement for political balance.
- 2.2 New legislation (The Police Authority (Community Engagement and Membership) Regulations 2010) came into effect on 17 March 2010 which resulted in some changes to existing Membership Regulations.
- 2.3 The TVPA has therefore asked the Council to consider the following points when making recommendations to the Joint Committee for appointments to the TVPA:
- (1) the role of the Police Authority (set out in Appendix A);
 - (2) the police authority Member roles and responsibilities (set out in Appendix A);
 - (3) that the police authority is there to ensure an effective police service for the whole Thames Valley, not just the nominating area;
 - (4) that they should represent the interests of a wide range of people within communities in the area of a police authority;
 - (5) that they should have skills, knowledge or expertise which are under represented amongst the existing Members of the police authority;
 - (6) they should promote diversity within the Force and the Police Authority in question'
 - (7) that they commit sufficient time to take an effective role on the Police Authority.
- 2.4 TVPA would like to ensure that its membership represents the wider make-up of the communities of Thames Valley and is particularly keen to have female members and members from minority ethnic groups. The authority will also be facing other challenges in the forthcoming years particularly in terms of strategic leadership and value for money and the authority is therefore seeking Members that have experience in these areas.
- 2.5 It should be noted that all Police Authority Members will be required to have basic Criminal Records Bureau checks and increasingly they are likely to be required to undertake more detailed and onerous vetting for security purposes.
- 2.6 Police Authority Members will also be required to complete an Annual Performance Development Review and participate in a skills audit and analysis.

2.7 Councillor Anthony Stansfeld was the Council's representative during the previous period.

2.8 The following Members have expressed an interest in being nominated to this Outside Body:

Councillor Anthony Stansfeld.

3. Conclusion

3.1 That the Council appoints representatives to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and Thames Valley Police in accordance with the criteria set out above.

Appendices

Appendix A - Draft New Police Authority Regulations

Appendix B – Information submitted to the Council by the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority

Appendix B1 Letter to the Chief Executive

Appendix B2 Letter to the Group Leaders

Appendix B3 protocol for Member Champions

Appendix B4 Committee Membership

Appendix B5 Programme of Meetings