

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	DSFRA/22/21
MEETING	DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE OF MEETING	12 DECEMBER 2022
SUBJECT OF REPORT	APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR
LEAD OFFICER	Director of Governance & Digital Services
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That the Authority determines appointments committees, the Term of Office to be until the Authority annual meeting in 2023</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This report advises a change in appointees to the Authority from Plymouth City Council and invites the Authority to determine appointments to its committees so as to maintain political proportionality across all committees.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil.
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	N/A
APPENDICES	Nil.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Nil.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUE

- 1.1. The Authority has been advised by Plymouth City Council that, to address political proportionality issues for that Council, Councillor Philip Partridge (Conservative) has been replaced on the Authority by Councillor Mary Aspinall (Labour) with effect from 21 November 2022. This has resulted in a vacancy on both the Audit & Governance and Community Safety Committees.
- 1.2. Standing Order 30(1) provides that, in filling Committee vacancies, the Authority will take account of the political proportionality principles as set out in Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Simply appointing Councillor Aspinall to the committee places previously held by Councillor Partridge would alter the political balance on the two committees to the extent that the balance would not reflect the political balance on the Authority.
- 1.3. The Authority is therefore asked to determine changes to appointments to its committees for the remainder of the current municipal year to fill the two vacancies and reflect political proportionality across the committees. To assist the Authority, the following is advanced as one way of achieving this.
 - a. an existing Conservative place (Councillor McGeough) on the Resources Committee is taken by Councillor Aspinall;
 - b. Councillor McGeough fills the vacancy on the Audit & Governance Committee; and
 - c. Councillor Drean (Con) fills the vacancy on the Community Safety Committee.
- 1.4. It is understood that Councillors McGeough and Drean have indicated their agreement to these changes.

MIKE PEARSON
Director of Governance & Digital Services