

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Membership, Political Balance, and Appointments to Committees</b>	<b>Status</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to</b>	Authority	<b>Date</b>	06 June 2024
<b>Report of</b>	Clerk		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	Not Required	<b>Attached</b>	No
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## **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To approve appointments to the Authority's Committees for the 2024/25 municipal year in line with the political balance rules applying to the Authority.
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## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:
- a. **Note the members appointed to the Authority by the District Councils.**
  - b. **Note the members appointed to answer questions in the meetings of the District Councils' Full Council.**
  - c. **Provide nominations to serve on the various Committees.**
  - d. **Approve the appointment of Emma Dawson as Independent Member of the Audit & Governance Committee with effect from 1 July 2024 for a period of 4 years.**
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## **3 Link to Corporate Objectives**

- 3.1 This report links to the delivery of the following corporate objectives:  
**Effective and Transparent Governance**

To uphold effective governance showing prudence and propriety at all times.

## **4 Implications for the Corporate Risk Register**

The actions outlined in this report relate to risks around legal compliance contained in the Corporate Risk Register.

## 5 Background and Options

### *Membership*

- 5.1 The following Councillors have been appointed to the Authority by each of the District Councils for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

Barnsley MBC 2 Members	City of Doncaster Council 3 Members	Rotherham MBC 2 Members	Sheffield CC 5 Members	Non-Voting Co-opted Members 3 Members
Roy Bowser	James Church	David Fisher	Simon Clement-Jones	Nicola Doolan-Hamer (Unison)
Neil Wright	John Mounsey	Donna Sutton	Alexi Dimond	Garry Warwick (GMB)
	David Nevett		Jayne Dunn	Philip Boyes (Unite)
			Craig Gamble Pugh	
			Andrew Sangar	

- 5.2 The following members have been designated by the District Councils as the s41 Members whose role is to answer questions about the work of the Authority in meetings of the relevant full Council.

	Barnsley MBC	City of Doncaster Council	Rotherham MBC	Sheffield CC
<b>S 41 Member</b>	Roy Bowser	John Mounsey	Donna Sutton	Jayne Dunn

### *Political Balance and Appointments to Committees of the Authority*

- 5.3 While, in distinction to the District Councils, a system of political groups does not operate within the Pensions Authority, it is made up of elected councillors appointed in line with the relevant political balance rules and the Authority must also follow those rules in appointing to any committees which it chooses to create.
- 5.4 The Authority's Constitution provides for three Committees as follows.
- i. Audit and Governance Committee – This is chaired by the Authority's Vice Chair. The terms of reference mirror those of audit committees generally (and reflects recommended practice from CIPFA's position statement on audit committees) including responsibilities for the approval of the accounts, receiving reports from internal and external auditors, dealing with the risk management framework and related issues. The Committee meets four times per municipal year.
  - ii. The Staffing Committee – This is chaired by the Authority's Chair and should comprise the s41 members together with a proportionate number of non-Labour councillors. The terms of reference include dealing with significant staffing changes (affecting more than 5 FTE) and other staffing policy issues which require member consideration. The Committee meets on an ad-hoc basis.

- iii. The Appointments and Appeals Committee – This Committee meets on an ad-hoc basis but given known business, two meetings have already been scheduled for this year.

It would normally be recommended that this Committee have identical membership to the Staffing Committee, given the terms of reference which include the appointment of the Director and other chief officers and of the independent investment advisers and various appeals functions. However, to achieve the required political balance across the committee memberships this year, it is necessary for the make-up of these two committees to differ slightly.

As shown in the table at paragraph 5.6 below, the differences being that the Staffing Committee will have 4 Labour members, 1 Green Party member and 0 Conservative, whilst this Appointments and Appeals Committee will have 3 Labour members, 1 Conservative and 1 Green Party member. The table shows how this achieves an overall balance in seats when taking the seats on the Audit & Governance Committee into account.

- 5.5 The table below provides the current balance of membership of the Authority following the appointments after the 2023 local elections, reflecting the political balance across South Yorkshire.

	Conservative	Green Party	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Total
Barnsley			2		2
Doncaster			3		3
Rotherham	1		1		2
Sheffield		1	2	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>% of Total - Authority</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- 5.6 This leads to the allocation of seats on Committees as shown below:

	Conservative	Green Party	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Total
<b>Committees:</b>					
<b>Audit and Governance</b>	1		4	1	6
<b>Appointments and Appeals</b>	1	1	3	1	6
<b>Staffing</b>		1	4	1	6
<b>Total Committee Seats</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Grand Total Seats</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>% of Total Seats</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>63.3%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- 5.7 The above represents the closest approximation to exact political balance possible given the number of seats available.

5.8 Members are invited to make nominations for the Committees at this meeting.

*Audit & Governance Committee Independent Member*

5.9 The terms of reference for the Audit & Governance Committee were updated last year to provide for an independent member in line with CIPFA recommended practice and to enhance knowledge, skills and expertise in the committee. In line with this, officers have sought out and secured an individual to serve in this role. Ms Emma Dawson is an experienced practitioner who works in a local accounting practice and is also an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee at Barnsley College. Members are recommended to approve the appointment of Emma Dawson as independent member of the Audit & Governance Committee with effect from 1 July 2024 for a period of 4 years.

**6 Implications**

6.1 The proposals outlined in this report have the following implications:

Financial	None – the members allowance scheme caters for committee membership within the calculated allowances.
Human Resources	None
ICT	None
Legal	Maintaining political balance in appointments to committees is a legal requirement.
Procurement	None

**Sarah Norman**

**Clerk**

<b>Background Papers</b>	
<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>