

Appointment of Members to Joint Authorities

Meeting:	Annual Council
Date:	20 May 2026
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Not applicable
Key Decision	No
Eligible for Call In	No – Non-Executive Decision
Purpose of Report - To consider and determine the membership of Joint Authorities in 2026/2027.	
<p>Recommendations</p> <p>(1) That Council appoint the Leader as Kirklees Council’s Elected Member for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), with the Deputy Leader as the WYCA Substitute Member.</p> <p>(2) That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, WYCA’s Managing Director and other West Yorkshire Chief Executives, to jointly agree/appoint the 3 additional political balance Members and their substitutes to WYCA, so that the 8 constituent council members taken as a whole reflect the balance of political parties among members of WYCA’s constituent councils, so far as reasonably practicable.</p> <p>(3) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Group Business Managers, to nominate members to WYCA Weaver Network Board: the relevant Portfolio Holder for Transport, a substitute, and political balance places if required. That it be noted that the Board will appoint to the Deputy Chair role.</p> <p>(4) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Group Business Managers, to nominate members to WYCA Corporate Governance and Audit Committee: the Chair of Kirklees Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, a substitute, and political balance places if required.</p> <p>(5) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Group Business Managers, to nominate members to WYCA Investment Board: the relevant Portfolio Holder for Economy, a substitute, and political balance places if required. That it be noted that the Board will appoint to the Deputy Chair role.</p> <p>(6) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with Group Business Managers, to nominate Members to WYCA Scrutiny Committee: Kirklees Chair of Scrutiny, a substitute, and political balance places if required. That it be noted that the Chair will be appointed by WYCA and that the Deputy Chair will be appointed from the Membership of the Committee.</p>	

- (7) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the relevant Group Business Manager, to make any additional/revised nominations to any WYCA Committee or Board, as required after this Council’s annual meeting.
- (8) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the relevant Group Business Manager to nominate Members to the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and note that this must reflect the political balance of Kirklees Council.
- (9) That Council delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the relevant Group Business Manager to nominate Members to West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel in accordance with the requirements of that Panel, which must reflect the political balance across West Yorkshire. That it be noted that these Members will also automatically be members of the Kirklees Communities Partnership Board.
- (10) That Council delegate authority to Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Group Business Managers to determine the appointment of Members/Representatives to the remaining Joint Authorities not otherwise set out in this report.
- (11) That it be noted that the Leader will nominate the relevant Portfolio Holder for membership of the Vision Zero Board.

Reasons for Recommendations

To enable the determination of the membership of Joint Authorities for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year.

Resource Implications: Not applicable

Date signed off by Executive Director & name	Rachel Spencer Henshall 6.5.26
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Kevin Mulvaney N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Samantha Lawton 6.5.26

Electoral wards affected: Not applicable

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? There are no GDPR implications

1. Executive Summary

To consider and determine the membership of Joint Authorities in 2026/2027.

2. Information required to take a decision

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

The Elected Members of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) are drawn from the five district authorities. Under current legislation, appointments have to reflect the political balance of the relevant Councils taken as a whole.

One member plus a substitute must be appointed initially by Kirklees. The three political balance appointments must be agreed and jointly appointed by the five constituent Councils and Council is therefore asked to delegate these nominations to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders.

The governance structure for WYCA has changed for 2026/27 and, in addition to the full Authority, Kirklees is required to nominate to the following:

Body and Remit	Membership requirement
<p>Governance and Audit Committee:</p> <p><i>Exercise statutory duties with regard to audit, assurance, governance, financial reporting and risk management oversight and to include some corporate duties as required.</i></p>	<p>Chair of Kirklees Corporate Governance and Audit Committee plus a substitute.</p> <p>Political balance places if required.</p>
<p>Investment Board:</p> <p><i>Provide strategic leadership and make decisions relating to all functions related to economic development and investment including housing, planning, environment, business, culture, and skills as well as project related investment decision making for transport matters. Liaising with other Boards as needed.</i></p>	<p>Relevant Portfolio Holder plus a substitute.</p> <p>Political balance places if required.</p> <p>Note: A Deputy Chair will be appointed by the West Yorkshire Mayor</p>
<p>Weaver Network Board:</p> <p><i>Provide strategic leadership and make decisions relating to functions relevant to operating the integrated Weaver transport network. Liaising with other Boards as needed.</i></p>	<p>Relevant Portfolio Holder plus a substitute</p> <p>Political balance places if required.</p> <p>Note: A Deputy Chair will be appointed by the West Yorkshire Mayor</p>
<p>Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p><i>Exercise statutory overview and scrutiny functions, including call-in, pre-decision scrutiny and reviews. To also include monitoring and oversight duties previously done by the Finance Committee</i></p>	<p>Kirklees Chair of Scrutiny plus a substitute.</p> <p>Political balance places if required.</p> <p>Note: The Chair will be appointed by WYCA.</p>

WYCA has not re-constituted the following committees:

- Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
- Culture, Heritage and Sports Committee
- Economy Committee
- Finance, Resources and Corporate Committee
- Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee

A number of new advisory and partnership bodies will be formed. These will be non-formal bodies and forums constituting the sub-structure, reporting up to the formal committees. The membership will consist of experts, private sector voices, and other partners and they will focus on policy and strategy development, service design, outcome monitoring, and engagement.

Council is asked to approve the recommendations set out in this report.

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority

The Council is entitled to appoint four Members, this must be in accordance with the political balance of the Council.

Council is asked to delegate authority to Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with Group Business Managers, to determine the appointments in accordance with these principles.

West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

The 12 Elected Members of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel are drawn from the five district authorities. Under the current legislation appointments have to reflect the political balance of the relevant Councils taken as a whole.

Council is asked to delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Group Business Managers, to determine the appointments once Kirklees has received notice of the number of nominations required.

Other Joint Authorities

Council is asked to delegate authority to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Group Business Managers to determine the appointment of Members/Representatives to the remaining Joint Authorities not otherwise set out in this report.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 **Council Plan** – Not applicable

3.2 **Financial Implications** – Not applicable

3.3 **Legal Implications** - Not applicable

3.8 **Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)** – Not applicable

4. **Consultation** – Not applicable

5. Engagement – Not applicable

6. Options

6.1 **Options considered** – Not applicable

6.2 **Reasons for recommended option** - Not applicable

7. Next steps and timelines

Following approval, the relevant organisations will be informed of the appointments.

8. Contact officer

Leigh Webb, Head of Governance

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions – Not applicable

10. Appendices – Not applicable

11. Service Director responsible

Samantha Lawton – Service Director for Legal, Governance and Commissioning
(Monitoring Officer)