



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

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**Meeting and date:** Fire Authority, 16 February 2022

**Report title:** Composition of the Authority for 2022/23

**Lead Member:** Councillor Lesley Clarke OBE, Chairman

**Report sponsor:** Graham Britten, Director of Legal and Governance

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**Action:** Noting

**Recommendations:** That it be noted that the Councils of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes will be requested to appoint 12 Councillors and 5 Councillors respectively as representatives to be Members of Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority for the municipal year 2022/23.

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**Executive summary:** Buckinghamshire Council (BC) and Milton Keynes Council (MKC) each undertake an annual electoral canvass and publish their electoral registers each year on 1 December based on the results of those canvasses.

The purpose of this report is to apprise the Authority of a change to its composition required for 2022/23 arising from a change in the ratio of local government electors between BC and MKC based on the following data from the 2021 Electoral Registers.

Total Number of Members: 17

Buckinghamshire	411,005	(67.73%)	12 Members	(11.51)
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Milton Keynes	195,827	(32.27%)	5 Members	(5.49)
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This represents a change from 11:6 to 12:5. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) did not publish the annual datasets for the BC or MKC electorates (as at 1 December 2020) until 24 May 2021<sup>1</sup>. A collection of electoral statistics for 2 March 2020 was published by the ONS on 5 January 2021 to support the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies. These figures were used for the BC and MKC appointments for 2021/22.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1 December 2020 Electoral Registers (ONS, 24 May 2021) Buckinghamshire: 411,317; Milton Keynes: 195,595. The Annual Meetings of MKC and BC were held on 19 May 2021 and 26 May 2021 respectively.

<sup>2</sup> 2 March 2020 Electoral Registers (ONS, 5 January 2021)

Total Number of Members: 17

Buckinghamshire	412,512	(66.86%)	11 Members	(11.37 rounded)
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Milton Keynes	204,465	(33.14%)	6 Members	(5.63 rounded)
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**Financial implications:** None arising from the recommendations

**Risk management:** In future years BC and MKC will be asked to make appointments based on the figures published by the appointing councils' electoral registers in December each year rather than awaiting the publication of those registers in the ONS datasets.

**Legal implications:** The [Buckinghamshire Fire Services \(Combination Scheme\) Order 1996 \[1996/2924\]](#) created Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA) as the fire and rescue authority for Milton Keynes Council and the, then, Buckinghamshire County Council. Part III paragraph 12 requires that "Each constituent authority shall, so far as is practicable, appoint such number of representatives to be members of the Authority as is proportionate to the number of local government electors in its area in relation to the number of such electors in the other constituent authority's area."

BMKFA is a body to which the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies as a fire and rescue authority to which the constituent authorities appoint at least three seats such that each council must apply its own political proportionality rules to its appointments.

**Privacy and security implications:** None arising from the recommendations

**Duty to collaborate:** None arising from the recommendations

**Health and safety implications:** None arising from the recommendations

**Environmental implications:** None arising from the recommendations

**Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:** None arising from the recommendations

**Consultation and communication:** There have been 17 Members on BMKFA since its inception in 1997. At the request of the, then, Chairman the membership was increased to 21 in June 2008. This reverted to 17 in June 2010. From June 2010 until June 2017 the ratio of BC:MKC members was 12:5; from June 2017 it has been 11:6.

Prior to the municipal year 2015/2016 the Electoral Registration Officers of the, then, five councils were contacted for the numbers of local government electors as at 1 December of the preceding calendar year. Thereafter the ONS datasets were used, however each year these were being published closer to the Annual Meeting of BMKFA and the Annual Meetings of the appointing councils.

An email received from the BC Senior Electoral Services Officer, 12 January 2022, confirmed 'The Local Government electorate for Buckinghamshire Council at 1 December 2021 is 411005.'

An email received from the MKC Electoral Services Manager, 25 January 2022, confirmed 'Milton Keynes Local Government Electorate as per the revised register on the 1 December 2021 is 195,827.'

Next steps – The Democratic Services Officer will contact relevant counterparts at BC and MKC in order that they can notify the respective Council meetings to appoint 12 and 5 representatives respectively for 2022/23.

**Background papers:** [Buckinghamshire Fire Services \(Combination Scheme\) Order 1996 \[1996/2924\]](#) version when made.

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking