

# Annual Meeting of the Council

20<sup>th</sup> May 2013

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES ETC.

Relevant Portfolio Holder	N/A
Portfolio Holder Consulted	
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non key

### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed political balance of the Council's Committees and seeks the Council's agreement to these.
- 1.2 Once the Council has agreed the political balance, the Leaders of each of the Political Groups on the Council can nominate to the places on each for their group.
- 1.3 The Council also makes appointments to other bodies which are not required to be politically balanced. These are listed in the appendix.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Council is requested to RESOLVE that**

- 1) the Political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out in paragraph 3.6;**
- 2) the arrangement where the seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are not allocated in accordance with the political balance requirements be continued;**
- 3) the arrangement where the seats on the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel are not allocated in accordance with the political balance requirements be continued;**
- 4) appointments by political group leaders to the places on each Committee etc. be noted; and**
- 5) appointments to Working Groups and other bodies listed in the appendix be agreed.**

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## **3. KEY ISSUES**

### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The level of members allowances, based on the current number of positions as set out in this report, has been agreed previously by the Council.

### **Legal Implications**

- 3.3 With the exception of the Executive Committee, the Council is required by law to allocate places on its main Committees in accordance with its political make-up. The main requirements are that:
- the number of seats on each Committee allocated to each political group reflects the proportion it holds of the total number of seats on the Council;
  - the Group with the majority of seats on the Council should hold the majority of seats on each Committee.
- 3.4 The definition of a Political Group for these purposes is that it has a minimum of 2 members. The current make up of the Council is 15 Labour, 13 Conservative and 1 Councillor not in a political group.
- 3.5 The Council is able to decide not to allocate places in accordance with political balance and has done this for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a number of years. The convention is that the members who take the majority of seats on the Committee are not from the controlling political group. However, this decision can only take effect if no Councillor votes against it. A similar arrangement has been made for the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel, which is a sub-committee of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.6 At its last meeting, the Standards Committee asked the Monitoring Officer to make proposals to increase the size of the Committee from its current membership of 5. The request followed difficulties in setting up a quorate meeting of both the Committee and of an assessment sub-committee. The table below shows the political balance if the committee is increased to 9 members:

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Committee	Total places	Labour Group Places 15	Conservative Group Places 13	Non-aligned Councillor 1
Audit and Governance	7	4	3	0
Licensing	11	6	5	0
Planning	9	5	4	0
Standards	9	5	4	0
Overview and Scrutiny	9	5 (take 4) -1	4 (take 5) +1	0
Crime and Disorder Panel	5	3 (take 2) -1	2 (take 3) +1	0
	50	26	24	0

## **Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.7 Once the Council has agreed the allocation of seats, the leaders of each political group will nominate members to fill them so that the business of the Council can continue to run smoothly.

## **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.8 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

There are no specific high level risks arising from this report.

## **5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - list of Committees and other bodies for appointment.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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