

Annual Meeting of the Council

9th June 2014

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES ETC.

Relevant Portfolio Holder	N/A
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
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. Councillors who are not members of a political group are appointed to Committees by the Council.
- 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 terms of reference of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee be agreed as set out in Appendix 1;**
- 2) **the Political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out in paragraph 3.7;**
- 3) **the arrangement where the seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are not allocated in accordance with the political balance requirements be continued;**
- 4) **the arrangement where the seats on the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel are not allocated in accordance with the political balance requirements be continued;**
- 5) **appointments by political group leaders to the places on each Committee etc. be noted;**
- 6) **the Council appoints non-aligned Councillors to places on Committees;**

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- 7) **the Council appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 2;**
- 8) **appointments to Working Groups and other bodies listed in the appendix be agreed.**

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. After the recent Local Election the composition of the Council is 17 Labour, 9 Conservative, 3 Councillors 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 As part of budget savings, the Council agreed in February to bring together the Audit and Governance and Standards Committees. Proposed terms of reference for this Committee are attached at Appendix 1 for the Council to consider and agree. It is proposed that this Committee be made up of 9 Councillors.
- 3.7 The table overleaf shows the political balance based on current sizes of Committees and the new Audit, Governance and Standards Committee of 9 members:

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Committee	Total places	Labour Group Places – entitled to 17	Conservative Group Places – entitled to 9	Non-aligned Councillors Not entitled on political balance basis but Council allocates position
Audit, Governance & Standards	9	5 (5.27)	3 (2.79)	1
Licensing	11	7 (6.45)	3 (3.41)	1
Planning	9	5 (5.27)	3 (2.79)	1
	29	17	9	
Committees below are <u>not</u> proposed to be politically balanced – Council convention is that majority group does not take majority of seats				
Overview and Scrutiny	9	4 (5.27)	4 (2.79) Or 5	1 Or 0
Crime and Disorder Panel	5	2 (2.93)	3 (1.55)	0

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.8 Once the Council has agreed the allocation of seats to the main Committees, 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

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

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

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5. APPENDICES

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

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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