

Annual Meeting of the Council

22nd June 2020

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 **Political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out in paragraph 3.5;**
- 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) the **Conservative Group do not take up two seats they are entitled to, arising from the suspension of the political balance for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel;**
- 5) **appointments by political group leaders to the places on each Committee etc. be noted;**

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- 6) **the Council appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 1;**
- 7) **appointments to Working Groups and other bodies listed in the appendix be agreed; and**
- 8) **the terms of reference for the Committees as set out at Appendix 2 be confirmed.**

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

- 3.2 With the exception of the Executive Committee, the Council is required by law and / or its own constitution to allocate places on its main Committees in accordance with its political make-up and to approve the Committee terms of reference. 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.
- 3.3 The definition of a Political Group for these purposes is that it has a minimum of 2 members. The composition of the Council is 18 Conservative and 11 Labour.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 The table overleaf shows the political balance based on current sizes of Committees:

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Committee	Total places	Conservative Group Places – entitled to	Labour Group Places – entitled to
Audit, Governance & Standards	9	6 (5.59)	3 (3.41)
Licensing	11	7 (6.83)	4 (4.17)
Planning	9	6 (5.59)	3 (3.41)
Overview and Scrutiny	9	6 (5.59) Takes 4*	3 (3.41) Takes 5*
Crime and Disorder Panel	5	3 (3.10) Takes 2*	2 (1.90) Takes 3*
Statutory Officers Disciplinary Panel	5	3 (3.10)	2 (1.90)
Appointments Committee	5	3 (3.10)	2 (1.90)
Shareholders Committee	5	3 (3.10)	2 (1.90)
Electoral Matters Committee	5	3 (3.10)	2 (1.90)
Mathematical Calculation	63	39.10	23.89
Actual (numbers rounded)	63	39	24
Actual number (taken subject to suspending the political balance)	63	37*	26*

* Members are asked to note that if, as in previous years, Members choose to suspend the political balance arrangements for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel these will be the allocated places.

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The Conservative Group are entitled to two further places overall, arising from the suspension of the political balance, but are choosing not to take them.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 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. It is planned to have a list of the nominations available for noting at the Council meeting.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 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.

Appendix 2 – Committee Terms of Reference

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jess Bayley

Email: jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel.: 01527 64252 Ext: 3268