

Report title: Committee Appointments Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder	To be confirmed
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
Report Author	Job Title: Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch) Contact email: jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: (01527) 64252 Ext: 3268
Wards Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An Effective and Sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to RESOLVE that:-

- 1) the Political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out in paragraph 4.5;**
- 2) appointments by political group leaders to the places on each Committee etc. be noted;**
- 3) the Council appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 1;**
- 4) appointments to Working Groups and other bodies listed in the appendix be agreed;**
- 5) the terms of reference for the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee be amended, as detailed at Appendix 2; and**
- 9) the terms of reference for the Committees as set out at Appendix 3 be confirmed.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report sets out the proposed political balance of the Council's Committees and seeks the Council's agreement to these.

2.2 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.

2.3 The Council also makes appointments to other bodies which are not required to be politically balanced.

3. 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.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 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.

4.2 The definition of a Political Group for these purposes is that it has a minimum of 2 members. The current composition of the Council is 24 Conservative, 4 Labour and 1 non-aligned Member.

4.3 When considering the political balance, the group leaders took into account the current rules in the Council's constitution in respect of the Chair and Vice chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. These rules require that:

- The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee shall not be a member of the controlling group.
- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be a member of a political group not forming part of the ruling administration.

4.4 The table on the next page shows the political balance based on current sizes of Committees. In order for the figures to then balance overall:

- The Labour Group released a seat on the Licensing Committee and a seat on the Statutory Officers Action Disciplinary Panel in order to take an extra seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, thereby balancing at 9 appointments overall.
- The Conservative Group takes a space place on the Licensing Committee and Planning Committee respectively, in order to balance at 52 appointments overall.
- The non-aligned Members takes the remaining seats on the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and Statutory Officers disciplinary Panel.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council

24th May 2021

Committee	Total places	Conservative Group Places – entitled to	Labour Group Places – entitled to	Non-aligned Member
Audit, Governance & Standards	9	7 (7.45)	1 (1.24)	1 (0.31)
Licensing	11	10 (9.10)	1 (1.52)	0 (0.31)
Planning	9	8 (7.45)	1 (1.24)	0 (0.31)
Overview and Scrutiny	9	7 (7.45)	2 (1.24)	0 (0.31)
Crime and Disorder Panel	5	4 (4.14)	1 (0.69)	0 (0.17)
Statutory Officers Disciplinary Panel	5	4 (4.14)	0 (0.69)	1 (0.17)
Appointments Committee	5	4 (4.14)	1 (0.69)	0 (0.17)
Shareholders Committee	5	4 (4.14)	1 (0.69)	0 (0.17)
Electoral Matters Committee	5	4 (4.14)	1 (0.69)	0 (0.17)
Actual Entitlement	63	<i>52.14</i>	<i>8.69</i>	<i>2.17</i>
Total entitlement (rounded figure)	63	52	9	2
Actual number (taken subject to suspending the political balance)	63	52	9	2

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 The proposals detailed in this report support the strategic purpose 'An Effective and Sustainable Council'.
- 5.2 The Council is required to consider the political balance when changes are made to the composition of the membership of the authority and this report enables the Council to address this requirement.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 There are no climate change implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 At a meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Group held on 3rd November 2020 Members discussed the membership requirements in respect of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. At that time, members of the Executive Committee were permitted to serve on the Committee. However, the Constitution Review Working Group concluded that, in accordance with national best practice, it would be better to arrange for no members of the Executive Committee to serve on the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. To minimise disruption to Council business, it was agreed at that time that this proposal should be brought forward for further consideration at the Annual Council meeting in May 2021, for implementation in the 2021/22 municipal year.
- 6.4 Appendix 2 to this report sets out proposed changes to the terms of reference for the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee in respect of the membership of the Committee.

6.5 Members are asked to note that, should the proposed changes to the terms of reference for the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee be approved, the Portfolio Holder for Finance would still be expected to attend meetings of the Committee to speak on items, though could not be a member of the Committee.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There are no specific risks arising from this report.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Committee Appointments (to follow).

Appendix 2 – Amended Terms of Reference for the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

Appendix 3 – Terms of Reference for Committees (not including the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee)

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Group Leaders	The political group leaders have both been consulted about the political balance figures as has the non-aligned Member.	Various dates May 2021
Lead Director / Head of Service		
Legal Services		