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**Report title: Committee Appointments Report**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Sharon Harvey
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services
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Wards Affected	All
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 at Appendix 1;**
- 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 2;**
- 4) appointments to Working Groups and other bodies listed in Appendix 2 be agreed; and**
- 5) 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 authority'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.

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

**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The terms of reference for Committees are generally reported for noting as part of the report to the Annual Council meeting in respect of the political balance and Committee appointments.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The current level of Member allowances will continue to be paid to Members until such time as this is reviewed.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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 19 Labour, 5 Conservative and four non-aligned (three Independent and one Green Party) Members.
- 5.3 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.

**6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 6.1 The proposals detailed in this report support the strategic purpose 'An Effective and Sustainable Council'.
- 6.2 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**

- 6.3 There are no climate change implications.

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.4 There are no equalities and diversity implications.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 There are no specific risks arising from this report.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Political Balance  
Appendix 2 - Committee Appointments  
Appendix 3 – Terms of Reference for Committees