

Report to	On
Council	Wednesday, 19 May 2021



Title	Portfolio Holder	Report of
Appointment of Committee's for 2021/22	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Strategy and Reform)	Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Is this report confidential?	No
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Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to allocate places on the various committees of the Council in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to make appointments to those committees in accordance with Section 16 of the Act, together with the appointment of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the appropriate Committees, panels and working groups.

Recommendations

2. The allocation of committee places in accordance with the Political Balance Rules as set out in the report be approved.
3. The Members, Chairs and Vice Chairs for the committees, panels and working groups set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report be appointed for the period of twelve months until the First Business Meeting of the Council in May 2022.
4. The Council's Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Constitution to take into account the consequential changes as a result of this report.

Corporate outcomes

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	✓	Thriving communities	
A fair local economy that works for everyone		Good homes, green spaces, healthy places	

Background to the report

6. In accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it is the duty of the Council, at its first business meeting in each Council year, where it is divided into different political groups, to review the representation of different political groups on the various committees.

Criteria

7. Under the terms of Section 15 (5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, where a Council is divided into different political groups in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as this Council is, seats on ordinary committees have to be allocated to give effect to the following principles:
 - (a) all the seats on committees are not to be allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) the majority of seats on a committee should be allocated to the group which has the majority of the Authority's membership (in our case 26 seats or more);
 - (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the total number of seats on committees must be allocated in proportion to the political strength on the Council; and
 - (d) subject to (a), (b) and (c) above, the number of seats on each committee must be allocated in proportion to the political strength on the Council.

Political Composition of the Council

8. The current political composition of the Council is:

	Number of Members
Conservative	22
Labour	22
Liberal Democrat	5
Independent	1
Total	50

Allocation of Seats

9. The term "ordinary committees" has a special statutory meaning. They only include committees that have delegated powers to discharge the Council's statutory functions.
10. The political proportionality rules do not apply to the appointment of the Cabinet under the Section 24 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Constitution.
11. In order to comply with Section 15 (5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the allocation of seats on committees is set out below:

Committee	Total Places	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Planning	13	6	6	1
Scrutiny	13	6	6	1
Licensing and Public Safety	11	5	5	1
Standards	7	3	3	1
Governance	7	3	3	1
Appeals	3	1	1	1
Appointments Panel – Chief Officers	5	2	2	1
Shared Services	5	2	2	1

Appointment of Members to Committees

12. Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that after the Authority has determined the allocation of committee places, it is the duty of the Authority to exercise its power to make appointments to committees to give effect to the wishes of the various political groups, as to who is to be appointed to the places on that Committee which have been allocated to that particular group. The places are the property of the various political groups for appointment and dismissal.
13. The nominations from each of the political groups are shown in Appendix 1 to this report for Council to consider.

Appointments to Panels and Working Groups

14. The Council has created a number of panels and working groups which are not classed as 'ordinary' committees and therefore do not need to be politically proportionate.
15. However, in creating the panels and working groups consideration has been given to ensure the membership represents all political groups.
16. The appointment of members to panels and working groups in line with the wishes of the political groups are shown in Appendix 2 to this report.

Risk

17. The proposals set out in this report will ensure that appointments are made to the various Committees in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Failure to meet the legislative requirements would leave the Council's decisions open to challenge.

Equality and diversity

18. There are no equality and diversity implications as a result of this report.

Air quality implications

19. There are no air quality implications as a result of this report.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

20. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

21. The principal legislation that governs political proportionality is set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and accompanying regulations. On a practical level it assists if wherever possible we could have an uneven number of councillors on each committee.

Background documents

There are no background documents to this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Appointments to Committees

Appendix 2 – Appointments to Panels and Working Groups

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