

TITLE OF REPORT: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2016/2017**REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER****1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the appointment of Members of Committees for 2016/2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That, for 2016/17, the seats allocated to each political party on the Committees to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies and the seats allocated to each political party on the bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 does not apply be as set out in Appendix A to this report, which will be tabled at the meeting.
- 2.2 That, for 2016/17, Members be appointed to the various Committees and other bodies in accordance with the wishes of the individual groups, as detailed in Appendix B to this report, which will be tabled at the meeting.
- 2.3 That the size of the Standards Committee be increased from 8 to 12 District Council Members (comprising 8 Conservatives, 3 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat), and that the Democratic Service Manager be instructed to appoint the additional Members of the Committee (2 Conservatives, 1 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat) following nominations to these positions from the Political Group Leaders.
- 2.4 That, subject to the approval of 2.3 above, the Monitoring Officer be instructed to amend 7.1.2 of the Constitution to reflect the increased membership of the Standards Committee.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To comply with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. In respect of 2.3 and 2.4 above, to reflect the Standards Committee request to the Monitoring Officer to explore the possibility of increasing the size of the Standards Committee.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 5.1 The Leaders of the Political Groups have been consulted and have informed the Democratic Services Manager of their Committee Members nominations for 2016/2017.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the Act”) imposed a duty for the Council to review the representation of the different Political Groups on the Council’s Committees. The representation needs to be broadly proportional to the number of seats held by each Political Group of the Council. The Committees to which Section 15 of the Act applies are:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee;
- Planning Control Committee;
- Licensing & Appeals Committee;
- Standards Committee;
- Council Tax Setting Committee;
- Employment Committee; and
- Joint Staff Consultative Committee.

- 7.2 The Council is also required to appoint to various other bodies, to which Section 15 of the Act does not apply, in accordance with the nominations received from the Political Groups.

8. ISSUES

- 8.1 Appendix A to the report (which will be tabled at the meeting) will set out political balance of Committees, as required under the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the proposed allocation of seats for those bodies to which Section 15 does not apply, for 2016/17.

- 8.2 Appendix B to the report (which will also be tabled at the meeting) will set out the proposed appointment of Members to Committees for 2016/2017, in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.

- 8.3 At the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 31 March 2016, it was resolved:

“That the Acting Monitoring Officer be asked to explore the possibility of increasing the size of the Standards Committee for 2016/17 onwards, in order to provide greater flexibility for the Standards Sub-Committee.”

- 8.4 Following consultation with Political Group Leaders, it is now recommended that the size of the Standards Committee be increased from 8 to 12 District Council Members (comprising 8 Conservatives, 3 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat), and that the Democratic Service Manager be instructed to appoint the additional Members of the Committee (2 Conservatives, 1 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat) following nominations to these positions from the Political Group Leaders.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 As the recommendation made does not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of 'social value' as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 need not be applied.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no human resource implications.

15. APPENDICES

15.1 **Appendix A – Appointment of Committees, including those to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies - this will be tabled at the Annual Council meeting on 19 May 2016.**

15.2 **Appendix B – Appointment of Members of Committees for 2016/2017 - this will be tabled at the Annual Council meeting on 19 May 2016.**

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 None.