

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
25 MAY 2023**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR 2023/24

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: PEOPLE FIRST / SUSTAINABILITY / A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the appointment of Members of Committees for 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That, for 2023/24, 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, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be noted.

2.2 That, for 2023/24, Members be appointed to the various Committees and other bodies in accordance with the wishes of the individual political groups, as detailed in Appendix B to this report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To comply with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1 The Leaders of the Political Groups have been consulted and have been requested to inform the Democratic Services Manager of their Committee Member nominations for 2023/24.

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 and Regulation Committee;
- Standards Committee;
- Council Tax Setting Committee;
- Employment Committee;
- Employment Appeals 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. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Appendix A to the report sets 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 2023/24.

- 8.2 Appendix B to the report (to be circulated subsequent to the agenda publication) will set out the proposed appointment of Members to Committees for 2023/24, in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.

- 8.3 In respect of substitutes to committees the constitution states at Paragraph 4.8.4:

“(b) For Committees or Sub-Committees listed at 4.8.4(d) below and Panels, but not the Cabinet, the Council will appoint a proportionate number of substitutes in respect of each political group as that group holds ordinary seats on that Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel. The number of substitutes shall be a minimum of two substitutes per group and a maximum of 50% of the total of each group’s full committee or Panel membership rounded up to the nearest whole number.”

- 8.4 Following consultation with the Group Leaders, the Leader agreed that the Membership of the Cabinet Panel on Environment would not be politically balanced, as outlined in the Terms of Reference, but would be evenly split between the three political groups.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.
- 9.2 The proposed appointments are due to be made in line with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the subsequent Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) (Amendment) Regulations 1991.

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 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. However, equalities implications from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no human resource implications.

15. APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix A – Political Proportionality & Balance calculations including to those committees governed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 15.2 Appendix B – Appointment of Members of Committees for 2023/24. (Appendix B will be circulated as a supplement when available).

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 None