



REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TO:	ANNUAL COUNCIL
ON:	19 th May 2022

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2022/23

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To note the composition and political balance of the Council as detailed in **Appendix 1**, and approve Council appointments for 2022/23.

2. ANNUAL COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

At the Annual Meeting of the Council each year, Council notes the appointment of various Members as well as appointing Chairs and Vice Chairs to Committees.

The Council appointments are detailed in **Appendix 2** – ‘Council Appointments for 2022/23’.

Council is requested to:

1. Note the Leader’s appointment of the Executive Board Members and Deputy Leaders; (as detailed in **Appendix 2**)
 2. Note the Shadow Executive Members (as detailed in **Appendix 2**);
- and
3. Appoint Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members to the following Committees as detailed in **Appendix 2**:

- Policy & Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- People Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Planning & Highways Committee
- Licensing Committee
- Audit & Governance Committee
- Standards Committee
- Call-in Committee

The Licensing Committee has established Sub-Committees consisting of three members of the Committee to deal with licensing applications. A rota of Members is drawn up with the Chair or Vice Chair leading each Sub-Committee meeting.

The Call-in Committee is chaired by the Vice Chair of Policy & Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee and is made up of eight other eligible Members, appointed by Group Leaders according to the proportionality of the Council at the time a meeting is called.

3 BACKGROUND

Following the local elections on 5th May 2022, the political composition and balance of the Council is as follows:

Labour	36 seats	= 70.59 %
Conservative	13 seats	= 25.49 %
Liberal Democrat	1 seat	= 1.96 %
Independent (Cons)	1 seat	= 1.96 %
Total	51 Seats	= 100.00%

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the Act”) imposes a duty on the Council to allocate seats on committees to political groups in accordance with the size of each group as a whole, unless alternative arrangements are notified to all Members and agreed without any councillor voting against them. The Council is required to observe the following principles as far as it is reasonably practicable:

- (a) that not all seats on the body are allocated to the same group;
- (b) that the majority of seats on the body are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority’s membership;
- (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
- (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the authority.

Further details on the political balance and the proportionality of seats for the committees listed is referred to in **Appendix 1**.

The Council is required to determine the number of seats on each committee and the allocation of those seats to the political groups.

Applying the principles of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (“the Regulations”), the proportional distribution of seats on Committees between political groups is as set out in **Appendix 2**.

The allocation of seats includes a statutory bar on members of the Executive Board to be on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and is subject to the provisions in the Constitution in relation to the membership of the Audit & Governance Committee.

Under the Act and the Regulations, the proper officer is required to notify the leader of political groups of allocations to that political group to enable them to express their wishes on the appointments.

Regulation 15 states that where a political group has failed to express its wishes in relation to the appointments within the period of three weeks beginning with the date on which notice was given, the authority / committee may make such appointments to those seats as they think fit.

It is therefore anticipated that, where group leaders have not yet notified the proper officer (the Chief Executive) of their appointments to seats, that those appointments be made and notified within three weeks of this Annual Council meeting.

Overview & Scrutiny Committees (OSC) - The present structure of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees was agreed in 2018 following the electoral review (which reduced the number of councillors from 64 to 51), and established three Overview & Scrutiny Committees reflecting the areas of People, Place and Policy & Corporate Resources. The membership for each of the three committees is 11. In addition, there is the Corporate Parenting Committee, which is a specialist advisory committee working with the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education and the Chair of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

It is proposed that the remit, number of Committees and membership of each of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is looked at, to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to conduct effective scrutiny of Council and relevant health business, with a report back to Council during 2022/23.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

- 1) notes the composition and political balance on the Council following the local elections on 5th May 2022, as referred to in paragraph 3 above and further detailed **Appendix 1**

- 2) notes the appointment of the Executive Board Members and the Deputy Leaders;
- 3) notes the Shadow Executive Members;
- 4) approves the appointments to be made to the positions detailed in Paragraph 2, subsection 3; and
- 5) notes the provisions relating to political balance, referred to in Paragraph 3.

(Note: That in the event the Group nominations are not available before the Annual Meeting the decisions on appointment of Members to Committees can be delegated to the Group Leaders to agree the appointments and confirm to the proper officer within the period stated in the Regulations).

- 6) authorises the Chief Executive in consultation with the three Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees to review the structure of the overview & scrutiny committees, and present a report to Council at a future date.

Denise Park
Chief Executive
11th May 2022

Background Papers: The Local Government and Housing Act 1989,
Local Government (Committees and Political
Groups) Regulations 1990, Council Constitution
(all published)

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- Appendix 1 - Proportionality – political balance 9th May 2022
- Appendix 2 - Council Appointments for 2022/23