



REPORT OF: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO: ANNUAL COUNCIL

ON: 18th May 2023

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2023/24

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To note the composition and political balance on the Council as detailed in **Appendix 1**, re-appointment of the Leader and approve Council appointments for 2023/24.

2. LEADER

The appointment of the Leader of the Council is a Council function in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended).

The Leader will hold office (the earlier of) for a term of four years from the date of appointment as Leader or until:

- (a) he/she resigns from the office; or
- (b) he/she is no longer a councillor; or
- (c) he/she resigns or for some other reason no longer able to continue office or has withdrawn any party whip to which he/she was subject at the time of his/her appointment; or
- (d) the first Annual Council after his/her normal day of retirement as a councillor.

The Leader's term of office as councillor ended on 9th May, but has been re-elected for a further 4-year term.

It is the responsibility of the Leader to determine the size and membership of the Executive Board (providing the membership comprises between two and nine members, (not including the Leader). The Leader shall also appoint Deputy Leader(s) from the membership of the Executive Board. The Leader shall also determine the remit of each portfolio. The Council does not have any decision-making role in this regard.

3. 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 the **Appendix 2** – ‘Council Appointments for 2023/24’.

The Council is requested to:

1. Subject to Paragraph 2 above, note the Leader’s appointment of the Executive Board Members and Deputy Leaders; (as detailed in the **Appendix 2**)
2. Note the Shadow Portfolio Members (as detailed in the **Appendix 2**);

and

3. Appoint Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members to the following Committees as detailed in the **Appendix 2**:

- Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Health & Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Children’s & Young Persons Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Planning & Highways Committee
- Licensing Committee
- Audit and Governance Committee
- Standards Committee
- Call-in Committee
- Charitable Funds 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 and Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee and is made up of eight other Members (9 in total), appointed by Group Leaders according to the proportionality of the Council at the time when a meeting is called.

4 **BACKGROUND**

Following the local elections on 4 May 2023, the political composition and balance of the Council is as follows:

Labour	39 seats = 76.47 %
Conservative	12 seats = 23.53 %
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 in 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 the **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 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 group 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 by the proper officer, 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 (OCS) – The Council at its meeting on 28 July 2022 resolved to restructure the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees and established the Children’s & Young Persons OSC and Health & Social Care OSC, replacing the People OSC. [[Scrutiny Review.pdf \(blackburn.gov.uk\)](#)]. For the remainder of 2022/23 the composition for each of these two newly established OSCs were six members, including a chair and vice chair. The composition of the Policy and Corporate Resources OSC and Place OSC remained unchanged for 2022/23.

For 2023/24, it is proposed that the composition for all 4 OSCs be 9 members each. The composition for the call-in committee to remain unchanged.

The arrangements for the Corporate Parenting Committee (which is a specialist advisory Committee) are to be reviewed in consultation with the Strategic Director, Childrens & Education (DCS), and the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education and the Chair of Children’s & Young Persons OSC.

5 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council:

- 1) re-appoints Councillor Phil Riley as Leader of the Council from 18th May 2023, and in accordance with Article 7.03 of the Constitution.
- 2) notes the composition and political balance on the Council following the local elections on 4th May 2023, as referred to in Paragraph 4 above and further detailed **Appendix 1**
- 3) notes the appointment of the Executive Board Members and the Deputy Leaders;
- 3) notes the Shadow Portfolio Members;
- 4) approves the appointments be made to the positions detailed in Paragraph 3, subsection 3; and

(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).

- 5) authorises the Chief Executive to review of the Corporate Parenting Committee, specialist advisory Committee in consultation with the Strategic Director, Childrens & Education (DCS), and the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education and the Chair of Children’s & Young Persons OSC, and present a report to Council at a future date.

**Denise Park
Chief Executive
9th May 2023**

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 9 May 2023

Appendix 2 - Council Appointments for 2023/24