

Annual Council Meeting

26 May 2016

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance & ICT

Allocation to Seats and Appointments to the Council Structure and Outside Bodies for 2016/17

Summary

1. At its Annual General Meeting, Full Council considers the allocation to seats on Committees and other bodies every year and makes appropriate appointments for the coming Municipal Year.

Background

2. Council is now asked to make those appointments and to allocate those places on the committees and other bodies that it wishes to set up in order to run its business during the 2016/17 Municipal Year. These appointments are made in accordance with the political balance requirements set out in the 1989 Local Government & Housing Act, as may be required.

Council is also required to appoint its Leader at a Full Council Meeting under the Local Government Act 2000. Under the same statutory provisions, the appointed Council Leader is responsible for appointing between two and nine Executive Members.

Allocation of Seats

3. Under agenda item 5(i), Full Council is asked to approve appointments to those available seats to which the political balance rules must be applied under the terms of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989. Council is also asked to consider applying the rules to the remaining bodies it chooses to set up, in accordance with previous practice. Full details are contained in Annex A to this report.

Appointments to Committees, Working Groups & Outside Bodies

4. Further to the allocation of seats referred to above, under agenda item 5, Full Council is asked to make appointments to those Committees and other bodies set out in Annex B. These include various outside bodies, together with Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees and membership of Ward Committees. These appointments will be made in accordance with nominations to be made by political groups, together with nominations to places allocated to Independent Members.
5. Also included within Annex B are the details of statutory appointments which the Council is required to make to its Health & Wellbeing Board. This is a Committee of the Council but one to which proportionality rules do not have to be applied. Statutorily, the Council must appoint the Council Leader (or his or her nominee) to the Board. Traditionally, the Council has also appointed a further 3 Members to the Board. It is suggested that the Council may wish to allocate these 3 places as follows:
 - 1 Labour;
 - 1 Conservative;
 - 1 Liberal Democrat.

Fire Authority

6. As shown in Annex A (proportionality of seats), Council must apply proportionality itself to its available places on the Fire Authority. The Council is entitled to 4 places, giving 1 place to each of the Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Green Groups.

Consultation

7. In accordance with the usual process for gathering nominations to available places at the Annual Council Meeting, all party Groups have been consulted on and provided with the necessary information on available places.

Options

8. Options open to the Council are:
 - (i) to approve or not approve the allocation of seats in accordance with the arrangements set out in Annex A;
 - (ii) to make the appointments proposed at the meeting to Committees and other bodies set out in Annex B, including the

appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs to Committees, or propose alternatives;

Council Plan 2015-19

9. Establishing an appropriate decision making and scrutiny structure, is essential in providing a framework through which the Council can make decisions relating to the delivery of its core priorities set out in the Council Plan, effectively.

Implications

10. There are no known implications in relation to the following in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members, namely to consider the allocation of seats and places to Committees and other bodies, including Chairs and Vice Chairs, together with the appointment of a Council Leader.
 - Financial
 - Human Resources (HR)
 - Equalities
 - Crime and Disorder
 - Property
 - Other

Legal Implications

11. The Council is statutorily obliged to make appointments to committees, advisory committees, sub Committees and certain other prescribed bodies in accordance with the political balance rules. These rules may only be waived where no Member votes against the proposal. As with previous years, it is suggested that the rules be waived in relation to appointments to the Joint Standards Committee, in the interests of fairness, independence and equality on this Committee.

Risk Management

12. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report, other than the failure to meet the above legal requirements and the risk of a Council operating with no agreed political management arrangements (in the form of a decision making and scrutiny structure) should Annual Council fail to make any such arrangements.

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to consider the recommendations and annexes attached to this report and
- (i) Agree the allocation of seats in accordance with Annex A ;
and
 - (ii) Approve appropriate nominations to Committees, other bodies and outside bodies, as well as appointments to Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as set out in this report, its annexes and any further details circulated prior to the meeting.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's statutory requirements.

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**Report
Approved**



Date 16 May 2016

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A - Allocation of seats 2016/17

Annex B - Appointments to Committees and other bodies 2016/17,
including outside bodies, and Ward Committees

Background Papers

None