
Annual Council Meeting

22 May 2008

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Allocation to Seats and Appointments to Executive, Committees and Other Bodies 2008/9

Summary

1. At its Annual General Meeting, Full Council considers the allocation to seats on Committees and other bodies every year and appoints an Executive (including Executive/Council Leader) together with other Committees and bodies which it wishes to establish for the coming Municipal Year.

Background

2. Every year, Full Council makes the appointments and allocates those places on Committees etc. it wishes to set up, as referred to below:
 - Allocation of places on Committees/bodies in accordance with the political proportionality requirements under the 1989 Local Government & Housing Act and commensurate with the 2000 Local Government Act introducing executive arrangements;
 - Establishment of an Executive with Executive/Council Leader;
 - Agreement of Executive portfolio areas for individual Executive Members;
 - Appointment of Members to Committees, outside & partnership bodies etc..
3. In addition, Full Council approves a Standing List of Conferences at its Annual Meeting. These being those conferences which key or relevant named Executive or other Members are deemed automatically entitled to attend and for which their expenses will be reimbursed.

Appointment of an Executive and Executive/Council Leader

4. Under agenda item 5(a), Full Council is asked to appoint an Executive and Executive Leader. Annex A to this report gives two alternative options for forming an Executive and Shadow Executive:

(1) Liberal Democrat Group (20 Council Members) to form the Executive, with a proposal for Councillor Waller to be

Executive Leader. Under this option, a Shadow Executive to be formed by the Labour Group (18 Council Members);
(2) Labour Group to form the Executive, with a proposal for Councillor Scott to become Executive Leader. Under this option, a Shadow Executive to be formed by the Liberal Democrat Group.

5. Members will be asked to vote for one of the above two options at the Annual Council Meeting, without debate.

Allocation of Seats

6. Under agenda item 5(b), full Council is asked to apply proportionality to available seats in accordance with the legal requirements identified in paragraph 2 above and to consider applying proportionality to the remaining bodies it chooses to set up, in accordance with previous practice. Details are contained in Annex B to this report.

Appointments to Committees, Working Groups, Outside & Partnership Bodies

7. Under agenda item 5(c), Full Council is asked make appointments to those Committees and other bodies set out in Annex C. At the time of writing this report, it is not clear whether the Labour Group will wish to nominate some alternative Labour Chairs/Vice-Chairs to certain Committees, in the event of their Group forming an Executive. If the Labour Group do indeed nominate such alternative Chairs/Vice-Chairs, it will be clearly indicated on Annex C.

Standing List of Conferences

8. Under agenda item 5(d), Full Council is asked to approve the list of Standing Conferences to which Members with specific responsibilities (eg. Executive Member) are entitled to attend and claim expenses. Full details are set out in Annex D.

Consultation

9. In accordance with the usual processes 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

10. Options open to the Council are:
 - a. to approve the proportionality arrangements set out in Annex B or not;
 - b. to establish an Executive with Executive Leader based on either of the proposed options set out in paragraph 4 above;

- c. to make the appointments to Committees and other bodies set out in Annex C or propose alternatives;
- d. to approve the Standing List of Conferences or not.

Corporate Priorities

11. Establishing an Executive and Executive Leader together with an appropriate decision making and scrutiny structure, contributes to the Council's Corporate Value relating to establishing strong Council leadership.

Implications

12. 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 and the nominations to the Executive, Executive Leader and other bodies :

- **Financial**
- **Human Resources (HR)**
- **Equalities**
- **Crime and Disorder**
- **Property**
- **Other**

Legal Implications

13. The Council is statutorily obliged to consider its proportionality on committees and other relevant bodies and make appropriate appointments at its Annual Meeting, including considering whether to appoint an Executive and Executive Leader.

Risk Management

14. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of 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

15. Members are asked to consider the annexes attached to this report and agree the necessary proportionality arrangements for allocation to seats, together with proposals to form an Executive, appoint an Executive Leader and approve appropriate nominations to Committees and other bodies.

Reason:

To fulfil the Council's statutory requirements.

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Report Approved **Date** 13.05.08

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A - 2 options for forming an Executive/Shadow Executive 2008/9

Annex B - Allocation of seats 2008/9

Annex C - Appointments to Committees and other bodies 2008/9

Annex D - Standing List of Conferences.

Background Papers

None.