

Council Meeting

23 October 2014

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance & ICT

Allocation to Seats and Appointments to the Council Structure and Outside Bodies for 2014/15

Summary

1. At its Annual General Meeting in May 2014, Full Council considered and allocated seats to Committees and other bodies for the 2014/15 Municipal Year. Since then there have been a number of changes within Groups and to the number of Independent Members on Council. As a result of these changes and the By-Election results on 16 October, 2014, brought about by the sad death of former Councillor Jeffries, Council is now asked to re-allocate seats and places to its Committees and other bodies for the remainder of the current Municipal Year.

Background

2. Council is asked to make appointments and re-allocate places on its committees and other bodies, in accordance with the political balance requirements under the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.

Allocation of Seats

3. Under agenda item 3(i) of this Extraordinary Meeting, Full Council is asked to approve the allocation of 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 those rules to the remaining bodies it chooses to set up, in accordance with previous custom and practice. Details of existing agreed arrangements as a result of this year's Annual Meeting are contained in Annex A to this report. Proposals for change will be published once the outcome of the by-election is known and Groups have made nominations.

Appointments to Committees, Working Groups, Outside & Partnership Bodies

4. Further to the allocation of seats referred to above, under agenda item 3(ii), Full Council is asked make revised appointments to those Committees and other bodies set out in Annex B and to appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs of 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. Again, Annex B contains details of appointments made at this year's Annual Meeting and updated during the course of the year. Further details of nominations to these Committee places etc will be circulated once they are available following the by - election and once nominations have been submitted by Groups to available places.

Consultation

5. In accordance with the usual process for gathering nominations to available places on Council and affiliated bodies, all party Groups are being consulted on and provided with the necessary information on available places.

Options

6. Options open to the Council are:
 - (i) to approve or not approve the allocation of seats in accordance with the arrangements set out in the revised Annex A to be circulated;
 - (ii) to make the revised appointments proposed to Committees and other bodies set out in the revised Annex B, to be circulated, or to propose suitable alternatives;

Council Plan 2011-15

7. Establishing an appropriate decision making and scrutiny structure, contributes to the Council delivering its core priorities set out in the Council Plan, effectively.

Implications

8. 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 Cabinet, Cabinet Leader and other bodies:

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

Legal Implications

9. 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.

Risk Management

10. 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 this Extraordinary Council meeting fail to make any such arrangements, brought about by the revised allocation of places to its Committees and bodies .

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to consider this report and the revised annexes circulated and
- (i) Agree the allocation of seats for the remainder of the current Municipal Year, in accordance with the revised Annex A ;
and
 - (ii) Approve appropriate revised nominations to Committees and outside or partnership bodies, as well as appointments to Chairs and Vice-Chairs, for the remainder of the current Municipal Year (as circulated in the revised Annex B).

Reason: To fulfil the Council's statutory requirements.

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report:**

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**Report
Approved**

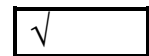


Date 15 October
2014

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A - Allocation of seats 2014/15 and revised allocation to be circulated

Annex B - Appointments to Committees and other bodies 2014/15, including outside bodies, Chairs/Vice-Chairs to Committees and Ward Committees, and revised nominations to be circulated.

Background Papers

None