

Annual Council Meeting

21 May 2015

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance & ICT

Allocation to Seats and Appointments to the Council Structure and Outside Bodies for 2015/16

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 get the new Council functioning following the recent local elections on 7 May 2015. These appointments are made in accordance with the political balance requirements set out in the 1989 Local Government & Housing Act, as may be required.
3. Council is also required to appoint its Leader at its Annual Meeting under the Local Government Act 2000. Under the same statutory provisions, the appointed Council Leader is responsible for appointing his or her Cabinet Members.

Heslington Parish Council

4. At the recent elections for Heslington Parish Council nominations were received for only one Ward and two Parish Councillors elected. The Parish Council therefore lacks a quorum. A further election will be held to fill the vacancies. In the intervening period the City Council has been requested to exercise its powers under section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972 to appoint additional Members so that the Council may continue to operate. One Member will be required to constitute a quorum but it is recommended that at least two are appointed to provide some

resilience. Details of nominations will be circulated prior to the Annual Meeting.

Allocation of Seats

5. 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

6. 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 outside and partnership 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. Also included within Annex B are the details of statutory appointments which the Council is required to make to its Health & Wellbeing Board. Due to the proximity of the local elections to the publication of agenda for the Annual Meeting this year, it has not been possible to include nominations to places from Groups within the published papers for this meeting. However, details of nominations will be published as soon as they become available, prior to the meeting itself.

Fire Authority

7. As shown on 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.

Police & Crime Panel

8. The Panel has a statutory duty to apply proportionality regionally. This Council has 2 places on the Panel. The Clerk to the Panel has advised the Council that if it chooses to nominate places based on its proportionality (ie 1 Labour and 1 Conservative) that would not cause any difficulties.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

9. The Combined Authority has to achieve proportionality across the region, resulting in the requirements of this Council being as follows:
 - (i) To appoint the Council Leader to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA);
 - (ii) To advise the WYCA of the Council Leader's appointment to the Cabinet Member portfolio for Transport, when made, so that the WYCA can appoint the Cabinet Member as an observer to its Investment Committee;
 - (iii) To advise the WYCA of the Council's appointed Chair of Audit & Governance Committee, so that it can appoint the Chair as an observer to its Audit Committee;
10. Finally, in relation to WYCA appointments, this Council will be invited to make nominations to the WYCA Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the proportionality arrangements for the WYCA once these are regionally available.

Health & Wellbeing Board

11. 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.

Consultation

12. 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

13. 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 and also outlined in paragraphs 7 to 12 above in relation to other bodies;
- (ii) to make the appointments proposed at the meeting to Committees and other bodies set out in Annex B and paragraphs 7 to 12 above, including the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs to Committees, or propose alternatives;

Council Plan 2011-15

14. In due course and reflecting the outcome of the recent election, Council will wish to consider setting a new Council Plan. Nonetheless establishing an appropriate decision making and scrutiny structure, contributes to the Council delivering its core priorities set out in the Council Plan, effectively.

Implications

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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**

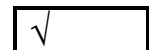


Date 12 May 2015

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A - Allocation of seats 2015/16

Annex B - Appointments to Committees and other bodies 2015/16,
including outside bodies, and Ward Committees

Background Papers

None