

Annual Council Meeting

21 May 2009

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Allocation to Seats and Appointments to Executive, Committees and Other Bodies 2009/10

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..

Appointment of an Executive and Executive/Council Leader

3. 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) **Option 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);

Note: This option also includes nominations for Councillor Sue Galloway (Liberal Democrat) as Chair of Licensing & Gambling Acts Committee and Cllr D'Agorne (Green) as Cycling Champion.

- (2) **Option 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.

Note: This option also includes nominations for Councillor Merrett (Labour) as Chair of Licensing & Gambling Acts Committee and also as Cycling Champion.

4. Members will be asked to vote for one of the above two options at the Annual Council Meeting, without debate. However, it should be noted that Option 2 does not, at present include any nominations for Liberal Democrat Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees, in the event of a Labour Executive being agreed. In the light of the previous decision made by Council for only main Opposition Groups to chair Scrutiny Committees and in the interests of completeness, it is hoped to circulate that information prior to the meeting.

Allocation of Seats

5. Under agenda item 5(b), full Council is asked to apply proportionality to those available seats to which proportionality must be applied under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000 and Local Government & Housing Act 1989. Such proportionality does not apply to single party Executives or Shadow Executive. Council is also asked to consider applying proportionality to the remaining bodies it chooses to set up, in accordance with previous practice. Full details are contained in Annex B to this report.

Appointments to Committees, Working Groups, Outside & Partnership Bodies

6. Further to the allocation of seats referred to above, under agenda item 5(c), Full Council is asked make appointments to those Committees and other bodies set out in Annex C. These arrangements include the establishment of and nominations to an Appointments Panel for the recruitment of a new Chief Executive, in light of the current postholders recent announcement. Attached at Annex C(i) is a report setting out the process for establishing an Appointments Panel.

Consultation

7. 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. Details of the relevant consultation in establishing an Appointments Panel for the recruitment of a new Chief Executive are set out in the report at Annex C(i).

Options

8. Options open to the Council are:

- (i) to approve the proportionality arrangements set out in Annex B or not;
- (ii) to establish an Executive with Executive Leader based on either of the proposed options set out in paragraph 4 above;
- (iii) to make the appointments to Committees and other bodies set out in Annex C or propose alternatives;

Corporate Priorities

9. 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

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

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

Legal Implications

11. 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

12. 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

13. Members are asked to:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) establish an Appointments Panel for the recruitment of a new Chief Executive and approve the nominations for such a Panel set out in Annex C.

Reason:

To fulfil the Council's statutory requirements.

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Report Approved **Date** 12.05.09

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 2009/10

Annex B - Allocation of seats 2009/10

Annex C - Appointments to Committees and other bodies 2009/10

Annex C(i) – Report on establishing Appointments Panel for the Post of Chief Executive.

Background Papers

None.