Annual Council Meeting Agenda Item: 6

	4414 0044
Meeting Date	14 May 2014
Report Title	Political Balance, Committees, Terms of Reference and Appointments
Portfolio Holder	Leader
SMT Lead	Director of Corporate Services
Lead Officer	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open

Recommendation	1. The Council is asked to agree the political balance calculation as set out in Appendix I.
	2. The Council is asked to agree to establish the Committees with the terms of reference as set out in Appendix II, for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.
	3. The Council is asked to allocate seats to those Committees and to agree the appointment of Members to those Committees, in accordance with the wishes of Group Leaders, as set out in Appendix III (to be tabled at Council).
	4. The Council is asked to agree the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of those Committees, as set out in Appendix IV (to be tabled at Council).

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires Local Authorities to review the allocation of seats on committees at the annual meeting, or as soon as possible after it (set out in Appendix I). Once the Council has agreed the allocation of Committee places between the political groups the Council must then appoint the nominees of the political groups to the committees.

2 Background

2.1 Political groups on the Council are formed in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 when 2 or more Councillors must notify the Proper Officer of their wish to be treated as a group.

The following principles apply to the allocation of seats:

(a) That not all seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;

(b) That the majority of seats on each Committee is allocated to a particular group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;

(c) Subject to (a) and (b), that, when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council, must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership; and
(d) Subject to (a) and (c), that the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.

Sub-committees are also governed by the political balance rules, but it is not necessary to add up all the sub-committee seats and then allocate them in proportion. As far as this is predictable, the allocation of seats on each sub-committee should reflect the proportional representation of the political groups on the Council.

- 2.3 Each of the political groups are entitled to a certain number of seats on committees. This is based on their percentage representation on the Council as a whole, as detailed in Appendix I. This is then required to be manually adjusted to ensure that the number of seats allocated to a particular group matches and does not exceed their entitlement.
- 2.4 To ensure overall political balance the Labour Group need to gift two seats to the Ungrouped Member.
- 2.5 The Council must establish:
 (a) At least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 (b) A Committee under the Licensing Act 2003
 The Council may also establish other Committees
- 2.6 Appendix II sets out the terms of reference of Committees as currently agreed by the Council.

3 Proposal

3.1 The Council is asked to agree the recommendations set out on page one of this report.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 Council can decide to change the number and size of Committees, however, this will have an impact on the number of seats available on the Council and will therefore require the political balance to be re-calculated to reflect this. Members are encouraged to make Officers aware in advance of the meeting of any proposals of this nature. Any changes to the terms of reference of Committees also need to be approved by Council.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 All Group Leaders have been made aware of this report and have been asked to advise Democratic Services of their nominations to seats on Committees for their respective Groups. This will be circulated at the Council meeting.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	
Financial, Resource and Property	The cost of servicing the Council's committees will be met within existing budgets. The establishment of any additional Committees would have financial and human resource implications.
Legal and Statutory	The Head of Legal has been consulted and the relevant legislation has been included in the body of the report.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report
 - Appendix I: Political Balance Calculation
 - Appendix II: Terms of Reference of Committees
 - Appendix III: Nominations to Committees (to be tabled)
 - Appendix IV: Chairman and Vice-Chairman (to be tabled)

8 Background Papers

None.

Political Balance Calculation 2014/15

Party Group		Conservativ	/e	Labour		Independent G	iroup	Ungrouped Me	mber	Total	
Number of members		31		13		2		1		47	
Overall proportionality		0.659574		0.276596		0.042553		0.021277		1	
Total entitlement		66.617021		27.93617		4.297872		2.148936		101.00	
Total Rounded Entitlement		67		28		4		2		101.00	
	Size of Committee	Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement	
Committees											
Planning Committee	17	11.212766	11	4.70212766	5	0.72340426	1	0.361702128	0	17.00	17
General Licensing Committee	10	6.59574468	7	2.76595745	3	0.42553191	0	0.212765957	0	10.00	10
Policy Development and Review Committee	11	7.25531915	7	3.04255319	3	0.46808511	1	0.234042553	0	11.00	11
Scrutiny Committee	13	8.57446809	9	3.59574468	4	0.55319149	0	0.276595745	0	13.00	13
Audit	9	5.93617021	6	2.4893617	3	0.38297872	0	0.191489362	0	9.00	9
General Purposes	9	5.93617021	6	2.4893617	3	0.38297872	0	0.191489362	0	9.00	9
Emergency Committee	6	3.95744681	4	1.65957447	2	0.25531915	0	0.127659574	0	6.00	6
Standards Committee	11	7.25531915	7	3.04255319	3	0.46808511	1	0.234042553	0	11.00	11
Licensing Act 2003	15	9.89361702	10	4.14893617	4	0.63829787	1	0.319148936	0	15.00	15
Total Seats	101	66.6170213	67	27.9361702	30	4.29787234	4	2.14893617	0	101.00	101

3.2 RESPONSIBILITY FOR COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

The Council's terms of reference are set below. The Committees listed in Part 3.2.2 below are expected to determine, by resolution, all matters falling within their functions. They may also delegate to Officers as they consider appropriate to ensure the efficient management of the Council's business. The delegation of functions should be read in conjunction with the list of delegations to Officers.

	PART 3.2 COUNCIL					
Council	Membership	Functions	Delegation of function			
Council	47 Members	 The Council has responsibility for all non-Executive functions. Functions which have not been delegated remain the sole responsibility of the Council. 1. To adopt and approve amendments to the policy and budget framework; 2. Adopting and changing the Constitution; this includes financial transactions, accounting, tenders and the publication and availability of information; 3. Approving or adopting the policy framework and the budget; This is set out in Article 3 of the Constitution; 4. Subject to the urgency procedure contained in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution, making decisions about any matter in the discharge of an executive functions which is covered by the policy framework budget where the decision maker is minded to make it in a matter which would be contrary to the policy framework or contrary to/or not wholly in accordance with the budget, 				

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	5. To appoint (and remove) the Leader and to note the Leader's appointments to the Cabinet and their terms of reference;	
	6. Agreeing and/or amending the terms of reference for Committees, deciding on their composition and making appointments to them;	
	7. Appointing representatives to outside bodies unless the appointment is an executive function or has been delegated by the Council;	
	8. Changing the name of the area, conferring the title of Honorary Alderman or Freeman of the Borough;	
	9. To adopt the Codes of Conduct for Members and Officers;	
	10. To adopt a Members' Allowances Scheme, after considering the report of the Independent Members Allowances Panel;	
	11. To appoint the Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer;	
	12. To resolve any matters requiring Member involvement, relating to local elections, electoral registration, revisions of electoral boundaries, orders in respect of parishes and related matters pertaining to the Borough or Parish Councils;	
	13. Making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting bylaws and promoting or opposing the making of local legislation or personal Bills;	
	14. All local choice functions set out in Part 3 of the Constitution	

		which the Council decides should be undertaken by itself rather than the Executive; 16. To make arrangements for the	
		discharge of functions by officers under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972;	
		,	
		17. All other matters which, by law, must be reserved to Council.	
	PAI	RT 3.2.1 COMMITTEES	
Committee	Membership	Functions	Delegation of function
A		Statement of Purpose	
Audit Committee	9 Members	The purpose of an audit committee is	
		to provide independent assurance of	
		the adequacy of the risk management	
		framework and the associated control	
		environment, independent scrutiny of	
		the authority's financial and non-	
		financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure	
		to risk and weakens the control	
		environment, and to oversee the	
		financial reporting process. Audit Activity	
		• To consider the Head of Audit	
		Partnership's annual report and	
		opinion, and a summary of audit activity (actual and proposed)	
		and the level of assurance it	
		can give over the council's	
		governance arrangements, and	
		any report from Internal Audit	
		on agreed recommendations	
		not implemented within a reasonable timescale;	
		To consider reports dealing with the management and	
		performance of Internal Audit	
		Services, including	
		consideration and endorsement	
		of the 3 year Strategic Internal	
		Audit Plan;	
		To consider the external	

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	 auditor's annual letter, the report to those charged with governance, and any specific reports as agreed with the external auditor; To liaise with the Audit
	Commission over the appointment of the Council's external auditor, comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and ensure that it gives value for money;
	 Regulatory Framework To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive or a Director or any Council body;
	 To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the Council;
	 To monitor council policies on 'Whistleblowing' and the 'Anti- fraud and Corruption Strategy';
	 To consider and comment on the authority's Annual Governance Statement and agree its adoption as part of the approval of the annual accounts;
	 To consider the council's arrangements for governance and whether adequate safeguards are in place to secure compliance with its own and other published standards and controls and best practice;
	Accounts
	 To review and approve the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether there are concerns arising from the financial statement or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Cabinet or the Council;
	 To consider the external auditor's report to those

		 charged with governance on issues from the audit of the accounts. To be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies (Note: Council is responsible for adopting the Treasury Management strategy and policy); Reporting To present an annual report to 	
		the Council providing assurance that the responsibilities of the Committee have been met.	
Emergency Committee	6 members, to include the Group Leaders subject to political balance.	To act on behalf of the Council, if necessary, in cases where it is not possible to call an extraordinary Council Meeting, subject to a full report to the next available meeting for information.	
General Licensing Committee	10 Members	1. To review and make decisions in accordance with Council policy in licensing matters under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 Schedule 3 (Sex Establishments) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 Schedule 4 (Street Trading) and the statement of principles.	See delegations to the Head of Service Delivery
		2. To discharge the Council's functions as a Licensing Authority under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982, within agreed policies;	
		3. To arrange for the delegation of any of the licensing functions exercisable by the Committee to an Officer of the Licensing Authority subject to the limitations set out in Schedule 3 and Schedule 4 of the Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982;	
		4. To consider enforcement action against Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Operators under the	

		 Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 and Town Police Clauses Act 1984; 5. To discharge functions under Part C of Schedule 1 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities)(England) Regulations 2000; 6. To exercise the Council's functions under any of the relevant statutory provisions relating to Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, as far as they are the responsibility of the District Council, as specified in Section C of Schedule 1 of the local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended). 7. To make decisions on matters relating to the Council's responsibilities in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles and Drivers. 8. To consider the further issues and implications of the possible introduction of a transport token/voucher scheme. 	
General Purposes Committee	9 Members	 (Minute No. 283/9/01) 1. All matters relating to the Council's responsibilities as an employer. 2. Consider and make decisions on non-executive matters in respect of staff terms and conditions, and the pension scheme. This will include: - The requirement to have a schedule of discretionary decisions for the operation of the pension scheme by the pension administrators. The changes to the LGPS that took effect in April 2008, including such aspects as the formula for calculating pension contributions, have not yet been incorporated into the Swale discretions; changes to the pay scales 	

		required following a review of the reward strategy; and changes to update the policies related to market supplements, pay protection and job evaluation required following the review of the reward strategy, to consider and make decisions on non- executive matters in respect of staff terms and conditions, and the pension scheme. 3. To consider amendments to the Constitution and to make recommendations on amendments or changes to full Council.	
Appointments Sub-Committee A Sub- Committee of the General Purposes Committee	7 Members – to be selected from the General Purposes Committee	To agree the appointments of Directors and Heads of Service. To make recommendations and, where permitted by legislation, to take decisions in accordance with the provisions of Local Authorities (Standing Orders) Regulations 1993, in matters concerning the Head of Paid Service, Chief Officers, Section 5 Officer (Monitoring Officer) and Section 151 (Chief Finance) Officer. This includes appointments, Dismissals, and Disciplinary matters.	
Licensing Act 2003 Committee	15 Members	 To review and make recommendations to Council upon policy in relation to licensing matters under the Licensing Act 2003 and the statement of licensing policy; To discharge the Council's functions as a Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, within agreed policy; To arrange for the discharge of any of the licensing functions exercisable by the Committee to an Officer of the Licensing Authority subject to the limitations set out in Section 10(4) of the Licensing Act 2003; To review and make recommendations to Council upon 	

		 policy in relation to licensing matters under the Gambling Act 2005 and the statement principles; 5. To discharge the Council's functions as a Licensing Authority under the Gambling Act 2005, within agreed policy; 6. To arrange for the delegation of any of the licensing functions exercisable by the Committee to an Officer of the Licensing Authority subject to the limitations set out in Section 154 of the Gambling Act 2005. 	
Licensing Act 2003 Sub- Committee	3 Members selected from the Licensing Committee	 Licensing Act 2003: 1. Application for a personal licence if objection made. 2. Application for a personal licence where a person has unspent convictions – all cases. 3. Application for a premises/club premises licence if a representation is made. 4. Application for a provisional statement if representation is made. 5. Application to vary the DPS if the police object. 6. Application for the transfer of premises licence if the police object. 7. Application for interim authority if the police object. 8. Application to review a premises/club premises licence – all cases. 9. Decision to object when the Council is a consultee and not the Licensing Authority. 10. Application for a premises licence when the police object. 1. Application for a premises licence when the police object. 2. Application for a premises licence when the police object. 	See delegations to the Head of Service Delivery.

		 Application to transfer a licence where representations have been received; Application for a provisional statement where representations have been received; Review of a premises licence; Application for club gaming machine permits where representations have been received; Cancellation of a club gaming machine permit; Application for more than 4 gaming machine permits in a licensed premises. 	
Planning Committee	17 Members	To make decisions under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990: (a) Refusals; (b) The granting of permission, or approval; (c) Applications for listed building and conservation area consent; (d) Resolution to make and confirm tree preservation orders; (e) Orders under Section 215 relating to maintenance of waste land and resolution to prosecute for non- compliance with an order; (f) Resolution to serve enforcement notices and listed building enforcement notices and service of "stop notices", or resolution to prosecute in the case of failure to comply with any type of confirmed order; (g) Resolution to serve a repairs notice and to carry out urgent works to preserve listed buildings under Sections 48 and 54 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990; (h) Resolution to prosecute for the unauthorised display of advertisements. (i) Agreements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended);	See delegations to Head of Planning.

(j) Notices under Section 79 of the	
Building Act 1984;	
(Minute Nos. 404/7/85 and 443/9/87	
refers)	
(k) To respond to consultations on	
County Matter applications and on all	
other consultations for developments	
to be carried out by and/or determined	
by other Authorities, Agencies or	
Government Departments;	
(I) The determination of	
applications for development to be	
carried out by the Borough Council.	
(m) To resolve to make an Article 4	
Direction;	
(n) To resolve to make an 'Area of	
Special Control' under the	
Advertisement Regulations;	
(o) To resolve to secure the	
preservation of a building under	
Sections 3 and 4 of the Planning	
(Listed Buildings and Conservation	
Areas) Act 1990 or such other relevant	
legislation as may be enacted hereafter;	
,	
(p) To resolve to revoke a planning permission;	
(q) To resolve to accept a	
Purchase Notice;	
(r) To resolve to serve a	
discontinuance order;	
(s) To determine other related	
planning matters including	
conservation, tree preservation,	
advertisement control, building	
preservation and functions the subject	
of agency; and	
(t) To resolve to designate a	
Conservation Area and to review	
existing designations.	
NOTE	
(i) that in cases where the	
Committee is minded to make a	
decision that would be contrary to	
officer recommendation and contrary	
to policy and/or guidance, the	
Chairman should invite the Head of	
Planning to consider if the application	
should be deferred to the next meeting	
of the Committee or if there should be	

Diagning	Dispering	 a short adjournment for Officers to consider the views of the Planning Committee and to give further advice. If the application is deferred, at that next meeting, the Head of Planning should advise Members of the prospects of such a decision if challenged on appeal and if it becomes the subject of an application for costs. (ii) that in cases where the Committee determines an application contrary to officer recommendation, a full record should be made of the reasons for rejecting the recommendation. 	
Planning Committee Working Group Sub-Committee of the Planning Committee	Planning Committee Members Ward Members are invited to attend.	To visit sites the subject of planning applications, as directed by the Planning Committee, and report back to the subsequent Planning Committee. See Planning Committee procedural rules.	
Policy Development and Review Committee	11 Members	 <u>General role</u> Within their terms of reference, the Committees will: (i) consider any built-in review of any existing policies, strategies or plans of the Council; (ii) consider existing policies in the light of changes to legislation or national guidance; (iii) consider other reviews of existing council policy referred by a Cabinet Member or by resolution of Cabinet, Scrutiny Committee or Full Council; (iv) consider proposals for new council policy referred by a Cabinet Member, Cabinet or Full Council; (v) provide pre-decision comment on policy decisions. 	

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		A policy shall not be re-considered by the committee within two years or before its built in review period, unless by resolution of the full Council or Cabinet, or as required by a change in legislation or national guidance. The chairman may invite Cabinet Members and officers of the council or other persons to attend committee meetings to answer questions pertinent to the business of the committee.	
		Having considered an item, the committee may make recommendations to the person or body that referred the item to it; Cabinet, Cabinet Member, Officer of the Council or the Full Council.	
		The Policy Development and Review Committee shall exercise overall responsibility for any finances made available to it.	
		Annual Report – the Policy Development and Review Committee must report annually to the Full Council on their work and make recommendations for amended working methods if appropriate.	
Scrutiny Committee	13 Members	<u>General role</u> Within their terms of reference, the Committees will: (i) review or scrutinise decisions	
		made, and performance of, the Cabinet and Committees and Council Officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;	
		(ii) review or scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;	

(iii) require Members of the Cabinet and/or Committees and Chief Officers to attend before it to answer questions about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;	
(iv) make recommendations to the Cabinet or appropriate Committee or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process – it is expected that reviews of policy arising out of the work of the committee would be referred to the Policy Development and Review Committee;	
 (v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance; 	
(vi) make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive;	
(vii) make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of the area;	
(viii) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the executive;	
(ix) consider Councillor Call for Action requests in accordance with the Councillor Call for Action Protocol contained in Part 5 of this Constitution; and	

		 (x) in accordance with Section 19 of The Police and Justice Act 2006, to act as the Council's "Crime and Disorder Committee" in terms of reviewing and scrutinising decisions made, or other actions taken, in connection with the responsible authorities discharge of their Crime and Disorder functions. The Scrutiny Committee shall exercise overall responsibility for any finances made available to them. Annual Report – the Scrutiny Committee must report annually to the full council on its work and make recommendations for amended working methods if appropriate. 	
Standards Committee	Eleven Members with 3 non-voting co-opted Parish representative s	 To promote and maintain promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority and parish councils within the Borough. To adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity. To ensure that Parish Councils have in place a Code of Conduct 	Standards Committee Procedure Rules
		 nave in place a Code of Conduct consistent with the principles contained in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act. 4. To monitor and review the Code of Conduct as appropriate to ensure it is consistent with the following principles: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability openness, honesty and leadership. 5. To ensure that the Code of Conduct includes the provision that the authority considers appropriate in respect of the registration in its register, and disclosure, of (a) pecuniary interests, and (b) interests 	

		 other than pecuniary interests which the authority thinks appropriate. 6. To put in place (a) arrangements under which allegations can be investigated, and (b) arrangements under which decisions on allegations can be made. Such arrangements to include provision for the appointment by the authority of at least one independent person and to cover parish councils. 7. To consider applications for the grant of dispensations in accordance with the provisions contained within S.33 (b) (c) and (d)of the Localism Act 2011. 8. To set the allowances and expenses for the Independent Person and any Reserve Independent Persons. 	
Standards Hearing Panel Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee	Three Members to be drawn from the Standards Committee membership	 To consider any matter referred for investigation in accordance with the Council's agreed arrangements under Term of Reference 5 of the Standards Committee. To conduct a hearing and take decisions in respect of a Member who is found on hearing to have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, such actions to include: reporting its findings to Council [or to the Parish Council] for information; recommending to the Member's Group Leader (or in the case of ungrouped Members, recommend to Council or to Committees) that he/she be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council; recommending to the Leader of the Council that the Member be removed from the Cabinet, or 	Standards Committee Procedure Rules

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removed from particular Portfolio responsibilities;
 instructing the Monitoring Officer to [or recommend that the Parish Council] arrange training for the Member;
 removing [or recommend to the Parish Council that the Member be removed] from all outside appointments to which he/she has been appointed or nominated by the authority [or by the Parish Council];
 withdrawing [or recommend to the Parish Council that it withdraws] facilities provided to the Member by the Council, such as a computer, website and/or email and Internet access; or
 excluding [or recommend that the Parish Council exclude] the Member from the Council's offices or other premises, with the exception of meeting rooms as necessary for attending Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings.