

Annual Council Meeting

Meeting Date	20 May 2015
Report Title	Allocation of Committee seats and Committee appointments for 2015/16
Portfolio Holder	Leader
SMT Lead	Corporate Services Director
Lead Officer	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open

Recommendations	1. The Council is asked to agree the political balance calculation as set out in Appendix I.
	2. 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 II.
	3. The Council is asked to agree the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of those Committees, as set out in Appendix III.

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.
- 1.2 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.

2 Background

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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 Independent Group is required to gift one seat to the Conservative Group and they have chosen to gift one seat on the Standards Committee.
- 2.4 The Joint Transportation Board, the Local Engagement Fora and the Local Development Framework Panel because their functions are Executive functions and their membership means that they are not committees covered by section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 therefore section 15 of the LGHA does not apply.
- 2.5 Group Leaders have been requested to provide nominations to the places on committees to which their respective groups are entitled; this has been set out in Appendix II.
- 2.6 The Constitution authorises the Council to appoint the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of certain committees. The nominations to these positions are set out in Appendix III.

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.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 All Group Leaders 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	A clear scheme of delegation leads to improved governance and to the Council becoming a High Performing Organisation.
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage.
Legal and Statutory	The Head of Legal has been consulted on this report. The relevant legal provisions are set out in the body of the report.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	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 Calculations
 - Appendix II: Membership of Committees
 - Appendix III: Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

8 Background Papers

8.1 Not applicable.