

Report to:	Annual Council
Date:	22 May 2024
Title:	Appointments Report
Report of:	Head of Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To agree the seat allocations and appointments set out in this report in relation to Committees, Other Bodies and Outside Bodies and to note the Leader's appointments to Cabinet and Opposition Leaders' appointments to Shadow Cabinet.
Officer recommendation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To approve the proposed number and allocation of seats and nominations as set out in Appendix 1, to Committees, Other Bodies and Outside Bodies, and to Chairs and Deputy Chairs.2. That the continuation of the following bodies be confirmed with terms of reference as set out in the Council's Constitution, and that they have a fixed membership or to which members are appointed by the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive or relevant Director as the need arises: Equality Steering Group, Council Panels, Recruitment Panels, Task Groups and Project Boards.3. That Neal Robinson and Paul Cummins be re-confirmed as the Council's Standards Independent Persons until their tenure ends on 31 July 2027.4. To approve the Scheme of Delegations to Officers and Proper Officer functions as set out in the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution.5. To delegate to the Head of Democratic Services to resolve in consultation with Group Leaders any vacant appointments.
Reasons for recommendations:	To enable the Council to proceed with decision-making in the relevant bodies.
Contact Officer(s):	Name: Simon Russell, Post title: Head of Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer E-mail: Simon.Russell@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk Telephone number: 01323 415021.

1. Introduction

1.1 Whole council elections were held on 4 May 2023. As a result, the total number of Councillors used in the calculation of committee seat numbers is 27 and the breakdown of seats is 19 Liberal Democrats and 8 Conservatives.

1.2 Group Leaders have submitted nominations in accordance with these calculations.

2. Political Balance Review:

2.1 Under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council has a duty to review the political balance at the Annual meeting of the Council.

2.2 The principles for carrying out a review of the committee proportionality under Section 15(5) of the Act are that the Council has a duty to ensure:

- a. that not all the seats are allocated to the same political group;
- b. that a political group with an overall council majority gets a majority of seats allocated on any statutory Committee;
- c. subject to (a) and (b), that the total number of seats each political group has on all ordinary committees is in proportion to that group's share of the total council elected membership; and
- d. subject to (a) and (c), that the number of seats on the body allocated to each political group on a particular committee bears the same proportion to the number of seats the group has on the Council.

2.3 Each Group's fraction of the 27 membership is as follows:

Group	Number	Proportion:
Liberal Democrats	19	70.37%
Conservatives	8	29.6%

2.4 The table below sets out the allocations firstly by applying the membership percentage figures (principle c) and then by applying the whole council proportionality to the total allocation of seats (principle d):

Committee	Seat Nos	CON	LIB DEMS
Audit and Governance	8	2 (2.37)	6 (5.63)
Licensing	12	4 (3.56)	8 (8.44)
Planning	8	2 (2.37)	6 (5.63)
Scrutiny	8	2 (2.37)	6 (5.63)
Totals:	36		
Result of applying proportionality across Cttees (principle c)		10	26

Seats allocated on whole Council proportionality (principle d)		11 (10.67)	25 (25.33)
Adjustments to Memberships:	0	+1	-1

2.5 The adjustment shown from applying the proportionality across the Council as opposed to by Committee, shows that the Conservative Group need to gain 1 place, and it has been recommended that the Conservative Group gains this place on the Scrutiny Committee from the Liberal Democrat Group.

2.6 **Committees.** The allocation of seats in accordance with the rules is as follows:

Committee	No. of Seats	Liberal Democrat Group	Conservative Group
Planning	8	6	2
Licensing	12	8	4
Audit and Governance	8	6	2
Scrutiny	8	5	3
Totals:	36	25	11

2.7 **Scrutiny Committee.** There is constitutional provision for a 7 or 8 seat Committee. The proposed allocation of seats is for the latter in order to achieve overall balance.

2.8 **Licensing Committee.** The law requires there to be not less than 10 members and not more than 15 members of a committee dealing with Licensing Act functions. In order, to achieve overall balance, the proposal is to continue with a 12-member committee in 2024/25. 5 members are appointed as chairs of ad hoc Licensing sub-committees.

2.9 **Advisory Bodies**

Body	No. of Seats	Controlling Group	Opposition
Conservation Advisory Group	5	3	2
Downland Forum	3	2	1

2.11 **Nominations.** The schedule of nominations from political groups based on these allocations are set out at Appendix 1. Any further updates to these appointments will be circulated prior to the meeting.

2.10 **Cabinet** - As a matter of law the power to appoint the Cabinet rests with the Leader of the Council, together with the individual areas of responsibility for each member. The maximum number of Cabinet Members, including the Leader and Deputy Leader is 10. The list of Cabinet Members and Shadow Cabinet Members are included in Appendix 1 for information and to note.

2.11 **Standards Independent Persons** – The Council appointed Standards Independent Persons, Neal Robinson and Paul Cummins in July 2023, subject to reconfirmation by the Full Council each year. It is asked that the Council recommend their appointments for the next municipal year.

2.12 **Scheme of Delegation** - In accordance with the constitution, the Council is asked to approve the Scheme of Delegations to Officers and Proper Officer functions as set out in the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution.

3. Financial appraisal

3.1 There are no financial implications from these proposals.

4. Legal implications

4.1 The Council must act in accordance with sections 15 to 16 and Schedule 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, in relation to the calculation of group Committee places.

5. Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Allocations to Committees, Outside and Other Bodies, to Chairs and Deputy Chairs.

6. Background papers

None