

Report to:	Full Council
Date:	20 July 2020
Title:	Political Balance and Appointments
Report of:	Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services
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.
Officer recommendation(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To approve the appointments of members to Committees and Other Bodies and as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees, as set out in Appendix 1; b) To approve the appointment of members to serve on outside and joint bodies, as set out at Appendix 2; c) To appoint all members of the Council to the 'approved list' of members appointed as substitute members in accordance with Council's Rules of Procedure, except where prohibited by those rules such as for Licensing Committee; and. d) To note the Leader of the Council's appointments to Cabinet, the individual areas of responsibility allocated to the Cabinet and the allocation of those areas of responsibility to the members of the Cabinet as advised verbally at the meeting.
Reasons for recommendations:	To enable the Council to proceed with decision-making in the relevant bodies.
Contact Officer(s):	<p>Name: Sarah Lawrence Post title: Senior Committee Officer E-mail: sarah.Lawrence@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk Telephone number: 01323 415023</p>

1 Introduction

- 1.1 There are 41 Councillors on the Council. Following Councillor Macleod's move from the Green Group to Liberal Democrats Group earlier in the year the current political group membership is as follows:
- 19 Conservatives
 - 8 Green Party
 - 9 Liberal Democrats
 - 3 Labour
 - 2 Independents Group.
- 1.2 Following consultation with group leaders, it is recommended that the allocation of places between the political groups is as set out in Appendix 1.

2 Proportionality 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. In addition, it can do so under the delegated authority of the Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services for any in-year changes in group memberships, should a formal request for a review be received.
- 2.2 The principles for carrying out a review of the committee proportionality under Section 15(5) of the Act (as amended) are that the Council has a duty to ensure:
- that not all the seats are allocated to the same political group;
 - that a political group with an overall council majority gets a majority of seats allocated on any statutory Committee;
 - 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
 - subject to (a) and (c), that each political group has the same proportion of seats as it holds on the council as a whole.
- 2.3 Each group's fraction of membership converts to a percentage as follows:

Group	Number	Proportion
Conservative	19	46.34%
Green	8	19.51%
Liberal Democrat	9	21.95%
Labour	3	7.32%
Independent	2	4.88%

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

Committee	Seat Nos	CON	GREEN	LIB DEMS	LAB	IND
Audit and Standards	7	3 (3.24)	1 (1.37)	2 (1.54)	1 (0.51)	0 (0.34)
Devolution	7	3 (3.24)	1 (1.37)	2 (1.54)	1 (0.51)	0 (0.34)
Employment	5	2 (2.32)	1 (0.98)	1 (1.10)	1 (0.37)	0 (0.24)
Licensing	10	5 (4.63)	2 (1.95)	2 (2.20)	1 (0.73)	0 (0.49)
Planning Applications	11	5 (5.10)	2 (2.15)	2 (2.41)	1 (0.80)	1 (0.54)
Policy and Performance Advisory	11	5 (5.10)	2 (2.15)	2 (2.41)	1 (0.80)	1 (0.54)
Totals:	51	23	9	11	6	2
Result of applying proportionality		23	9	11	6	2

across Cttees (principle c)						
Seats allocated on whole Council proportionality (principle d)		24	10	11	4	2
Adjustments to Memberships:	0	+1	+1	0	-2	0

2.5 The adjustment shown from applying the proportionality across the Council as opposed to by Committee, shows that the Conservative Group needs to gain 1 place, the Green Group need to gain 1 place and the Labour Group need to lose two places. There is no change required to the Liberal Democrat or Independent group allocation.

2.6 In order to meet the rules for Council proportionality it is recommended that:

- Conservative Group gains a place on the Employment Committee.
- Green Group gains a place on the Devolution Committee.
- The Labour Group gives up a places on Devolution Committee and a place on Employment Committee.

2.7 The allocations are therefore as follows:

Committee	Seat No.s	CON	GREEN	LIB DEMS	LAB	IND
Audit and Standards	7	3	1	2	1	0
Devolution	7	3	2	2	0	0
Employment	5	3	1	1	0	0
Licensing	10	5	2	2	1	0
Planning Applications	11	5	2	2	1	1
Policy and Performance Advisory	11	5	2	2	1	1
Total places:		24	10	11	4	2

The recommendations based on these allocation numbers are set out at Appendix 1 for consideration and approval.

2.8 Under the constitution all appointments to chair and deputy chairs of Committee; appointments are made at Annual Council, with the exception of the deputy chair of Planning Applications Committee which is determined at the first meeting. As no nominations have been received in advance for the meeting for the deputy chairs of Devolution Committee and Employment Committee, these will also be determined at the first meetings. All nominations received for Chairs and Deputy Chairs are included in Appendix 1.

2.9 Advisory Group nominations are also set out in Appendix 1.

3 Cabinet

3.1 As a matter of law the appointments to Cabinet rest with the Leader of the Council, together with determining individual portfolios. The maximum number of Cabinet Members, including the Leader and Deputy Leader is 10.

3.2 The appointment of the Leader has been determined under another item on the agenda, and the Leader will be asked as part of this report to advise at the meeting who is to serve in the Cabinet.

4. Outside Bodies

4.1 The Group Leaders provided nominations to outside bodies which are set out in Appendix 2 for approval.

5. Substitute Members

5.1 It is recommended that the Council formally appoints all Councillors to act as substitutes for Committees and other Council bodies, wherever is appropriate under Council's Rules of Procedure. Where this does not apply is set out in the constitution. For example, no substitute members are allowed by law on Cabinet or Licensing Committee.

6. Financial appraisal

There are no financial implications from these proposals.

6 Legal implications

The Council must act in accordance with the requirements of Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as amended by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) (Amendment) Regulations 1991 in relation to calculation of group Committee places.

7 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Nominations to Committees and Advisory Bodies and to Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Committees
- Appendix 2 – Nominations to Outside Bodies.

8 Background papers

None