

Report to:	Annual Council
Date:	19 May 2021
Title:	Appointments to Committees, Other Bodies and Outside Bodies, and appointment of Chairs and Deputy Chairs.
Report of:	Head of Democratic Services
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To seek approval of proposed allocations of seats and nominations, of the continuation of specified bodies, and of appointments to outside bodies.
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. 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. To approve the appointments of Members to serve on Outside Bodies in accordance with the names listed in Appendix 1.
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. E-mail: Simon.Russell@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk Telephone number: 01323 415021

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Whole council elections were held on 2 May 2019, and two seats were determined at a by-election on 6 May 2021. As a result, the total number of councillors used in the calculation of committee seat numbers is 27 and the break down of seats is 18 Liberal Democrats and 9 Conservatives. The seat allocations are set out below.

2. Current Structure

2.1 This paper is based on the current democratic governance structure. and Group Leaders have submitted nominations on this basis.

2.2 Base percentages:-

No. of Councillors (27)	<i>% seats on Council</i>
Liberal Democrats 18	66.67
Conservatives 9	33.33

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

Committee	No. of Seats	Controlling Group	Opposition Group
Planning	8	5	3
Licensing	12	8	4
Audit and Governance	8	6	2
Scrutiny	8	5	3
Totals:	36	24	12

2.4 **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.

2.5 **Licensing Committee (General and Licensing Act).** 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 for a 12-member committee in 2021/22. 5 members are appointed as chairs of ad hoc Licensing sub-committees.

2.6 Advisory Bodies

Body	No. of Seats	Controlling Group	Opposition
Conservation Area Advisory Group	4 (or 3)	2	2 (or 1)
Downland Forum	3 (or 4)	2 (or 3)	1

Conservation Area Advisory Group has had 4 members in 2020/21, and it was agreed as part the approval of its terms of reference in November 2020 that it would continue to have either 3 or 4. If 4, past Council practice has been to allow the opposition an equality of seats. The

Downland Forum had 3 members and nominations have been made on the basis that this continues.

2.7 **Other Task Groups and Boards.** So far as is possible, groups are recommended to retain existing membership so as to maintain continuity and enable ongoing work to continue.

2.8 **Nominations.** The schedule of nominations from political groups based on these allocations will be circulated in due course.

3. **Financial appraisal**

There are no financial implications from these proposals.

4. **Legal implications**

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 1990/1553, in relation to the calculation of group Committee places.

Lawyer consulted 20.04.21

Legal ref: Monitoring Officer

5. **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Allocations to Committee and Other Bodies, to Chairs and Deputy Chairs, and Appointments to Outside Bodies.
(*Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet appointments are included for information only*) **To Follow**

6. **Background papers**

None