Report to:
Date:
Title:

Report of:
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.

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 Graham Branton be reconfirmed as the Council's Standards Independent Persons until their tenure ends on 31 July 2023, and to note that the Monitoring Officer will undertake a new recruitment process for the positions, to be reported back to the next meeting of the Full Council.
4. To approve the establishment of a Constitution Working Group and its proposed terms of reference, as set out at Appendix 2 of the report, approve its membership, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, and to delegate the Monitoring Officer to incorporate its formation into the relevant sections of the Council's constitution.
5. To approve the Scheme of Delegations to Officers and Proper Officer functions as set out in the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution.

To enable the Council to proceed with decisionmaking in the relevant bodies.

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## 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 break down of seats is 19 Liberal Democrats and 8 Conservatives.
1.2 This paper is based on the current democratic governance structure and on the basis that all 27 members will be joining the two political party groups on the Council. 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 | $\mathbf{7 0 . 3 7 \%}$ |
| Conservatives | 8 | $\mathbf{2 9 . 6 \%}$ |

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 Applications | 8 | $2(2.37)$ | $6(5.63)$ |
| Scrutiny | $\mathbf{3 6}$ | $2(2.37$ | $6(5.63)$ |
| Totals: |  | $\mathbf{1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 6}$ |
| Result of applying <br> proportionality across Cttees <br> (principle c) |  | $\mathbf{1 1}$ |  |
| Seats allocated on whole <br> Council proportionality <br> (principle d) | $\mathbf{1 0 . 6 7 )}$ | $\mathbf{( 2 5 . 3 3 )}$ |  |
| Adjustments to Memberships: | 0 | $\mathbf{+ 1}$ | -1 |

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

| Committee | No. of Seats | Liberal <br> Democrat Group | Conservative <br> Group |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Planning | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| General <br> Licensing | 12 | 8 | 4 |
| Audit and <br> Governance | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Scrutiny | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| Totals: | $\mathbf{3 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 5}$ | $\mathbf{1 1}$ |

2.8 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.
2.9 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 for a 12-member committee in 2023/24. 5 members are appointed as chairs of ad hoc Licensing sub-committees.

| Body | No. of Seats | Controlling <br> Group | Opposition |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Conservation <br> 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.
2.12 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.
2.13 Constitution Working Group. It is recommended that an ad hoc Working Group be formed to consider and advise on updates required to the constitution as they arise. It is recommended that its proposed terms of reference and membership be as set out at Appendix 2 of the report, In addition, it is requested that the Monitoring Officer be delegated to incorporate its formation into the relevant sections of the Council's constitution.
2.14 Standards Independent Persons - The Council appointed Standards Independent Persons, Neal Robinson and Graham Branton, in 2019 for a 4 -year term commencing ending on 31 July 2023., subject to reconfirmation by the Full Council each year. It is asked that the Council recommend their appointments until the end of July. The Monitoring Officer will undertake a new recruitment process for the positions shortly, to be reported back to the next meeting of the Full Council.
2.15 Audit Independent Member - Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 2 March 2022, approved the appointment of a co-opted independent member to the Audit and Governance Committee. Following a successful recruitment process Stephen Gilbert has been appointed as a co-opted independent member for a 4-year term until May 2026.
2.16 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

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, 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.
- Appendix 2 - Proposed Constitution Working Group Terms of Reference.

6. Background papers
None
