Report to Council

Subject: Appointments to scrutiny committee, standing ordinary committees and sub-committees of the Council

Date: 22 May 2024

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Wards Affected

All

Purpose

To make appointments to the committees of the Council, including chairs and vice chairs for the ensuing year.

Key decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation:

That Council approves the appointment of Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the Council's standing ordinary committees, sub-committees and scrutiny committee as set out in appendix 1.

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1   Background

In determining the membership of committees, account must be taken of the requirements of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and 1991 made under sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These regulations require that seats on committees and sub-committees are allocated to the political groups in a way which reflects the overall political balance of the Council. A political group is defined as a group consisting of two or more members.

The current political make-up of the Council is:

Labour group   26
Conservative group   9
Liberal Democrat group   4
Independent members   2

There are a total of 79 committee seats to be allocated for the 2024/25 municipal year. The allocation of seats on the committees and sub-committees of the Council is, therefore, as follows:

Committee	Total Seats	Lab	Con	Lib Dem	Ind
Planning	**16**	10	4	1	1
Environment And Licensing	**11**	7	3	1	0
Licensing Act Committee	**11**	7	3	1	0
Appeals & Retirements	**7**	5	1	1	0
Joint Consultative and Safety Committee	**7**	5	1	1	0
Audit Committee	**7**	5	1	1	0
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	**13**	8	3	1	1
Appointments and Conditions of Service	**7**	5	1	1	0
TOTAL	**79**	52	17	8	2

On 11 July 2012 Council agreed:

a) Unanimously to set up a Standards Committee which is not politically balanced; and

b) That the Standards Committee should consist of 2 representatives from each political group together with 2 co-opted non-voting members (1 independent and 1 Parish rep).

With the above in mind, the Standards Committee will be appointed as follows (the Standards Committee is not subject to proportionality):

	Total Seats	Lab	Con	Lib Dem
Standards Committee	**6**	2	2	2

Nominations to committees have been sought and received from group leaders/business managers and are attached at appendix 1.

As agreed at the Audit Committee meeting in March, recruitment has started for two independent co-opted members of the Audit Committee. Confirmation and approval of these two members will be brought to the next ordinary council meeting on 10 July 2024.

2 Proposal

It is proposed that Council approves the appointments to the committees of the Council, including chairs and vice chairs for the ensuing year.

3 Alternative Options

To not approve the appointments for the ensuing year and have no clarity of the membership of committees.

4 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

5 Legal Implications

The Local Government Act 1972, the Localism Act 2011, and local Government Acts and Regulations made prescribe the governance arrangements for local authorities in considerable detail. They require councils to ensure that there is a clear committee structure in place and this report asks members to agree this.

6 Equalities Implications

No direct implications as a result of this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

No direct implications as a result of this report.

8 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Committee membership 2024/25

9 Background Papers

None identified

10 Reasons for Recommendations

To approve the appointments to the committees of the Council, including chairs and vice chairs for the ensuing year for the ensuing year.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by: M Hill
Date: May 2024
On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: F Whyley
Date: May 2024
On behalf of the Monitoring Officer