

Report to Council

Subject: **Appointments to Scrutiny Committee, Standing Ordinary Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council.**

Date: **20 May 2015**

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1. Purpose of the Report

To make appointments to the committees of the Council for the 2015/16 municipal year.

2. 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.

As Members will be aware the recent Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Review reduced the total number of Councillors on the Borough Council to 41 from the previous number of 50.

Following the Borough Elections held on 7 May 2015, the political make-up of the Council is:

Labour	25
Conservative	15
Liberal Democrat	1

As a consequence of the LGBCE Review the number of seats available across all committees of the council has been reduced in line with the reduction in number of Councillors.

There will therefore be a total of 79 committee seats to be allocated for the 2015/16 municipal year. The allocation of seats on the committees and sub-committees of the Council is, therefore, as follows:

Committee	Total Seats	Lab	Con
Planning	16	10	6
Environment And Licensing	11	7	4
Licensing Act Committee	11	7	4
Appeals & Retirements	7	4	3
Joint Consultative and Safety Committee	7	5	2
Audit Committee	7	4	3
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13	8	5
Appointments and Conditions of Service	7	4	3

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 3 co-opted non-voting members (1 independent and 2 Parish reps).

At the time there were 3 political groups and therefore the Standards Committee consisted of 6 elected members and 3 co-opted members. Now however there are only 2 political groups, it is proposed that in the spirit of the previous decision, the Standards Committee should consist of 2 representatives from the Labour Group, 2 representatives from the Conservative Group and 1 Liberal Democrat together 2 co-opted non-voting members (1 independent and 2 Parish reps).

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	5	2	2	1

Nominations to committees have been sought and received from Group Leaders/Business Managers on this basis and are attached at Appendix 1.

3. Recommendation

To appoint Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of the Council's Standing Ordinary Committees, Sub-Committees and Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix 1, which will be circulated at the meeting.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1- Committee Membership 2015/16 (To Follow)