



**REPORT of
HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

to
**COUNCIL (EXTRAORDINARY)
3 OCTOBER 2019**

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the appointment of Membership on Committees of the Council for the remainder of the municipal year, in light of the new Committee structure agreed by the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) that the Council notes the nominations of the Leader of the Conservative Group and the Leader of the Independent Group to the places allocated to their respective Groups and agrees the suggested allocation made for Councillor C Morris;
- (ii) that the Council ratifies the existing arrangements for the District Planning Committees and Area Planning Committees (minus ex-officio membership) for the remainder of the current municipal year;
- (iii) that subject to (i) above, the Council is asked to agree the membership of the following Committees of the Council for the remainder of the current municipal year:

<p>Strategy and Resources Committee (16 Members)</p>	<p>Councillors: R G Boyce MBE Mrs P A Channer CC M R Edwards Miss J L Fleming A S Fluker B E Harker A L Hull K M H Lagan C Mayes C Morris N G F Shaughnessy R H Siddall N Skeens J Stilts M E Thompson Miss S White</p>
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<p>Performance, Governance and Audit Committee (15 Members)</p>	<p>Councillors: E L Bamford Mrs P A Channer CC M F L Durham CC A S Fluker B E Harker M S Heard K W Jarvis J V Keyes K M H Lagan S P Nunn N Skeens W Stamp J Stilts C Swain Mrs M E Thompson</p>
<p>Licensing Committee (10 Members)</p>	<p>Councillors: R G Bassenger B S Beale MBE R G Boyce MBE Mrs P A Channer CC M F L Durham CC A S Fluker C Mayes R H Siddall J Stilts Mrs M E Thompson</p>
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (8 Members)</p> <p><i>(including the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (meeting as the Crime and Disorder Committee))</i></p>	<p>Councillors: V J Bell R P F Dewick Mrs J L Fleming M S Heard M W Helm C P Morley S P Nunn R H Siddall</p>
<p>Joint Standards Committee (5 Members plus 2 Parish Councillors)</p>	<p>Councillors: R G Boyce MBE M W Helm S P Nunn R H Siddall Mrs M E Thompson</p> <p>Parish Councillors: J E Anderson P Stilts</p>
<p>Investigating and Disciplinary Committee (5 Members)</p>	<p>Councillors: M G Bassenger R G Boyce MBE M R Edwards M W Helm Mrs M E Thompson</p>

<p>Investigating and Disciplinary Panel (5 Members)</p> <p><i>Minimum of five Members drawn from a pool of ten, three of whom must not have participated in the initial investigation of a case by the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee.</i></p>	<p>Councillors: E L Bamford M G Bassenger R G Boyce MBE Mrs P A Channer CC M R Edwards A S Fluker M W Helm W Stamp C Swain Mrs M E Thompson</p> <p>Plus Independent Persons appointed by the Council to assist the Joint Standards Committee</p>
<p>Appointments Board (6 Members)</p> <p><i>Procedure Rule 16(8) provides for the Committee to consist of five Members drawn from those listed, politically balanced where possible.</i></p>	<p>Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council Leader or Deputy Leader of the Opposition</p> <p>Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Strategy & Resources and Performance, Governance & Audit Committees</p> <p>Councillors V Bell M W Helm</p>

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 – POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES

3.1 In light of the new Committee structure agreed by the Council it is necessary to review the proposed seats on Committees. By law, seats on committees must be allocated in proportion to the political composition of the Council. In addition, the total number of seats across all of the Committees must reflect the overall political balance of the Council.

3.2 The political groups constituted for the purposes of the political balance provisions are:

Conservative	17 Members
Independent	13 Members

3.3 It should be noted that in addition to the above, Councillor C Morris is not aligned to a political group and is therefore not covered by the political balance provisions. However, paragraph 4.3 below suggests that the Council considers allocating him a position on a Committee.

3.4 The Conservative Group has a majority of the Members of the Council so that it has a right to request a majority on every Committee.

3.5 The Council is asked to ratify the allocation of seats on Committees in the following manner:

Committee	Conservative	Independent	Independent (non-aligned)
Strategy and Resources Committee	9	6	1 (subject to agreement of the Council)
Performance, Governance and Audit Committee	8	7	0
Licensing Committee	6	4	0
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5	3	0
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee	3	2	0

	Conservative	Independent	Independent (non-aligned)	Parish Councillors
Joint Standards Committee	4	1	0	2

3.5.1 Investigating and Disciplinary Panel

3.5.1.1 In addition to the Committees of the Council referred to in Procedure Rule 16, the Council is required to establish an Investigating and Disciplinary Panel (see Procedure Rule 17(9)) to which Members are appointed and the political balance provisions apply. This is distinct from the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee in terms of both purpose and membership and has therefore been included in the list. The Terms of Reference for this Panel provide for a minimum of five Members of which three shall be Councillors who have not served on the initial investigation carried out by the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee and two or three Independent Persons appointed by the Council to assist the Joint Standards Committee under the Localism Act 2011. It is suggested that membership is drawn from a pool of ten named Councillors.

Conservative	Independent	Independent (non-aligned)	Independent Persons
6	4	0	As detailed above

3.5.2 Appointments Board

3.5.2.1 The Council is also required to appoint Members to serve on the newly established Appointments Board. The Council and Committee Procedure Rule 16(8) provides for the constitution of this Board and the political balance provisions apply. The Terms of Reference for this Board provide for two Members to serve in addition to the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council, Opposition Leader or Deputy and Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Strategy & Resources and Performance, Governance & Audit Committees.

Conservative	Independent	Independent (non-aligned)	Leader(s) / Committee Chairmen
1	1	0	As detailed above

- 3.6 It should be noted that the new Committee structure removed the concept of ex-officio appointments to Committees, including the three Area Planning Committees.

4. NOMINATIONS OF THE LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP AND LEADER OF THE INDEPENDENT GROUP

- 4.1 The nominations of the Leader of the Conservative Group to the allocated places are as follows:

Strategy and Resources Committee	Councillors R G Boyce MBE, Mrs P A Channer CC, Miss J L Fleming, A S Fluker, B E Harker, A L Hull, R H Siddall, Mrs M E Thompson and Miss S White
Performance, Governance and Audit Committee	Councillors E L Bamford, Mrs P A Channer CC, M F L Durham CC, A S Fluker, B E Harker, K W Jarvis, J V Keyes and Mrs M E Thompson
Licensing Committee	Councillors R G Boyce MBE, Mrs P A Channer CC, M F L Durham CC, A S Fluker, R H Siddall and Mrs M E Thompson
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillors R P F Dewick, Mrs J L Fleming, M W Helm, C P Morley and R H Siddall
Joint Standards Committee	Councillors R G Boyce MBE, M W Helm, R H Siddall and Mrs M E Thompson
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee	Councillors R G Boyce MBE, M W Helm, and Mrs M E Thompson
Investigating and Disciplinary Panel	Councillors E L Bamford, R G Boyce MBE, Mrs P A Channer CC, A S Fluker, M W Helm and Mrs M E Thompson.
Appointments Board	Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council Councillor M W Helm

- 4.2 The nominations of the Leader of the Independent Group to the allocated places are as follows:

Strategy and Resources Committee	Councillors M R Edwards, K M H Lagan, C Mayes, N G F Shaughnessy, N Skeens and J Stilts
Performance, Governance and Audit Committee	Councillors M S Heard, K M H Lagan, S P Nunn, N Skeens, W Stamp, J Stilts and C Swain
Licensing Committee	Councillors M G Bassenger, B S Beale MBE, C Mayes and J Stilts
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillors V J Bell, M S Heard and S P Nunn
Joint Standards Committee	Councillor S P Nunn

Investigating and Disciplinary Committee	Councillor M G Bassenger and M R Edwards
Investigating and Disciplinary Panel	Councillor M G Bassenger, M R Edwards, W Stamp and C Swain
Appointments Board	Deputy Leader of the Opposition Councillor V Bell

- 4.3 It is suggested that the Council considers allocating a place on the Strategy and Resources Committee for Councillor C Morris.