

CIRCULATED
PRIOR TO THE
MEETING



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

to
**ANNUAL COUNCIL
18 MAY 2023**

APPOINTMENT TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To appoint serving Members to Committees for the Municipal year to May 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Member nominations set out in **APPENDIX A**, be approved;
- (ii) That one Non-aligned Member is appointed to sit on the Licensing Committee as set out in **APPENDIX A**;
- (iii) That Members note the Chairperson's job description (**APPENDIX B**) ahead of appointments to Chairpersons of these Committees.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Under Section 15(1)(b) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is required at its Annual Meeting to review the representation of different Political Groups on Committees of the authority.
- 3.2 In carrying out such a review and in making appointments to Committees following that review, the Council is under a duty only to make such appointments as give effect to the principles contained in Section 15(5) of the above Act. In essence, this requires local authorities to review Committee membership and political representation annually. 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.
- 3.3 Notification has been made to me of four Political Groups constituted for the purposes of the political balance provisions namely:

Conservative Group	Leader	Councillor S White
	Members	Councillors: D O Bown M F L Durham W J Laybourn N R Miller S J N Morgan C P Morley R G Pratt M E Thompson L L Wiffen

District Support Group	Leader	Councillor K M H Lagan
	Members	Councillors: A S Fluker L J Haywood M G Neall W Stamp J C Stilts
Liberal Democrat Group	Leader	Councillor J Driver
	Members	Councillors: S J Burwood K Jennings N D Spenceley P L Spenceley N J Swindle
The Maldon District Independent Group	Leader	Councillor R H Siddall
	Members	Councillors: M G Bassenger T Fittock J C Hughes E L Stephens N G F Shaughnessy

3.4 There are a further three non-aligned Members of the Council:

- V J Bell;
- A M Lay;
- U G C Siddall-Norman.

3.5 No Political Group has a majority of the Members of the Council (51% or more) so that it would have a right to request a majority on every Committee.

3.6 Ratification of some Committee seats has been deferred at group leader requests and this paper deals with Licensing, District Planning and Area Planning Committees. The political balance allocation of seats to the licensing committee are set out below.

	Total seats	Conservative Group	District Support Group	Liberal Democrat Group	The Maldon District Independent Group	Non-aligned
Licensing	10	3	2	2	2	1

3.7 In accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 Part IV, Paragraph 16(a), the membership of the Area Planning Committees is confirmed in the attached **APPENDIX A**.

3.8 Training

- Compulsory Planning training for all Members took place on 16 May 2023, at Maldon District Council (MDC) offices.
- Compulsory Planning policy and enforcement training for all Members will take place on 24 May 2023 at MDC offices.
- Compulsory Local Development Plan (LDP) growth options workshop for all Members will take place on 7 June 2023, at MDC offices.
- Compulsory Licensing training for Committee Members is available on either 8 June 2023 at 7pm or 19 July 2023 in the daytime, both online.
- Code of Conduct training is available to all Members on either 23 or 31 May 2023, taking place at Maldon Town Hall.

- Scrutiny training, compulsory for Committee members and available to all will take place on 12 June 2023.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Committee seat allocation and member nominations are provided for Member review.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 Committee appointments support across all six corporate plan priorities.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Committee seat allocation allows council business to be conducted.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** – None.

Background Papers: None.

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