



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND RESOURCES**

---

to  
**COUNCIL**  
13 JULY 2023

**APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To appoint members to vacant Committee positions for the remainder of the municipal year

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) That the Council appoints a non-aligned member to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2023 / 24;
- (ii) That the Council confirms to establish Joint Standards Committee politically balanced as per the nominations set out in **APPENDIX A**;

**OR** alternatively

That the Council confirms the make-up of the eight seats on Joint Standards for the Municipal Year 2023 / 24;

- (iii) That two Members are appointed to Appointments Board, for the Municipal Year 2023 / 24, Political Group allocation to be advised by Programmes, Performance and Governance Manager;
- (iv) That Councillor N J Swindle is appointed to the vacant Liberal Democrat seat on the Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2023 / 24.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on 8 June 2023, Members did not appoint a member to the non-aligned allocation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee due to absent members.
- 3.2 Council also deferred the appointment of District Councillors to the Joint Standards Committee as Councillor W Stamp raised a previous resolution to appoint this in a different way (not politically balanced). For Member reference, on 23 June 2020, the Council resolved that:
- (i) *That the Joint Standards Committee in its current form and all appointed councillors be disbanded;*
- (ii) *That the Council waives political balance on the Joint Standards Committee in order to reconstitute it;*

(iii) *That the Joint Standards Committee will consist of:*

- *eight elected members*
- *2 Parish Council observers (no voting rights)*
- *the Independent Person (no voting rights).*

*The eight members should reflect the balance of the membership of the Council; however, no group should have a majority on the Committee. All political groups (a group is defined as having three or more members and is recognised as a political entity) within the Council should have representation. Any substitutions must be made from the same political group.*

(iv) *That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Standards Committee be appointed not from the same political group.*

3.3 It is the view of the Monitoring Officer that this arrangement stood only for the municipal year and committee seats were allocated in a politically balanced manner. A change in composition of political groups at Maldon District Council as of May 2023 also prioritises the national legislation on Political Groups and Committee seat allocations (that they need to be allocated in a politically balanced manner).

3.4 The Council is asked to appoint membership of the Joint Standards Committee, either approving as set out in **APPENDIX A**, or confirming a waive of political balance and member nominations for this municipal year. It should be noted that to exclude the political balance provisions would need to be voted on without a single opposing vote.

3.5 The Appointments Board is a politically balanced Committee but with designated seats for key positions. **APPENDIX A** shows the expected political allocation of seats, and once it is confirmed which Political Group the Opposition Leader is provided from, the Director for Strategy and Resources will advise the Political Groups that need to supply a Member for the final two seats.

3.6 Councillor J Driver has resigned his seat on the Licensing Committee, which leaves a Liberal Democrat seat vacancy. The Group has nominated Councillor N J Swindle to this position and the Council is requested to ratify this change.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

4.1 The detail is provided in this report, so that Members can confirm appointments to Committees of the Council.

## **5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027**

### **5.1 Smarter finances**

5.1.1 Appointing the Committees as listed, will help underpin good governance of the organisation.

### **5.2 Provide good quality services.**

5.2.1 Appointing the Committees as listed, will help underpin good governance of the organisation.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Appointing the Committees as listed, will help underpin good governance of the organisation.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Cheryl Hughes, Programmes, Performance and Governance Manager