



REPORT of DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND RESOURCES

to
ANNUAL COUNCIL
16 MAY 2024

APPOINTMENT OF 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 2025.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Member nominations set out in **APPENDIX A**, be approved;
- (ii) That where nominations have not been received, members are appointed to these committee seats 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 (9)	Leader	Councillor S J N Morgan
	Members	Councillors: D O Bown M F L Durham, CC W J Laybourn N R Miller C P Morley R G Pratt M E Thompson L L Wiffen

District Support Group (6)	Leader	Councillor J C Stilts
	Members	Councillors: A S Fluker L J Haywood K M H Lagan M G Neall W Stamp CC
Liberal Democrat Group (6)	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 (6)	Leader	Councillor R H Siddall
	Members	Councillors: M G Bassenger A Fittock J C Hughes N G F Shaughnessy E L Stephens

3.4 There are a further four elected Members that are not part of a political group:

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

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 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**.

3.7 A Motion has also been received from Councillor R H Siddall that suggests a change in constitutional Terms of Reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Political Groups have provided nominations on the basis of the Motion being agreed.

3.8 In line with each Groups' percentage of Members, the seats on the Joint Standards Committee have been allocated to ensure overall Committee seat balance. Each of the three Member Groups (Liberal Democrat, District Support and the Maldon District Independent) have equal entitlement to the final seat on this Committee, therefore the Council is asked to appoint one Member from within the three Groups.

3.9 Training

3.9.1 Sessions for Chairpersons / Vice-Chairpersons elected will take place on Microsoft Teams at either 10.30am on Monday 20 May or 2pm on Tuesday 4 June 2024.

3.9.2 An 'Overview and Scrutiny at Maldon District Council' session will take place at 5.30pm on Tuesday 11 June 2024. This is available to all Members and compulsory for Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to attend or watch afterwards.

3.9.3 Following a well-received Member workshop in February 2024, Planning Officers will be running a similar session in the autumn.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Group nominations for allocated Committee seats are provided, and where nominations have not been received, Members are asked to appoint Committee seats as set out.

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

- 5.1 Elements of all areas of Corporate Plan delivery are covered in the activities of the Committees.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Customer delivery is driven by some of the Committee activity.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – Risk management is covered in some of the Committee activity.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Financial management is covered in some of the Committee activity.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to:

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