



**REPORT of
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**to
ANNUAL COUNCIL
14 MAY 2026**

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 2027.

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**.

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 five 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 J R Burrell-Cook M F L Durham W J Laybourn C P Morley R G Pratt M E Thompson L L Wiffen

Liberal Democrat Group (7)	Leader	Councillor J Driver
	Members	Councillors: S J Burwood S Dodsley K Jennings N D Spenceley P L Spenceley N J Swindle
The Maldon District Independent Group (5)	Leader	Councillor R H Siddall
	Members	Councillors: M G Bassenger A Fittock J C Hughes E L Stephens
District Support Group (4)	Leader	Councillor J C Stilts
	Members	Councillors: L J Haywood K M H Lagan W Stamp CC
Reform UK (2)	Leader	Councillor A S Fluker
	Members	Councillor M G Neall

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 Siddall- Norman
- Councillor S White

3.5 Each Member number accounts for 3.22% of membership and seat allocation.

3.6 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.

3.7 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 Draft Regulations currently set out that from the 30 September 2026 Planning Committees will be restricted to a maximum number of 13 Seats. A future report to vary the Constitution will be presented to the Performance Audit and Governance Committee in due course. Training will be required under the regulations for all Councillors sitting on this committee prior to its implementation. Therefore, the Council is requested to appoint 13 members to the District Planning Committee which will take effect from 30 September 2026.

3.9 Chairperson training will be available to those appointed to Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson positions, on either 18 May 2026 at 6pm or 21 May 2026 at 2.30pm.

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 in **APPENDIX A**.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028

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.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – None.

Background Papers: None.

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