



REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to
COUNCIL
22 OCTOBER 2026

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS OF THE COUNCIL

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To review Membership of Committees to ensure political balance rules are maintained across the Council and appoint new members where changes are required.
- 1.2 To appoint Members to the vacant seats on working groups.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That nominations to the Council Committees set out in **APPENDIX A** showing new membership of Licensing, Overview and Scrutiny, and Joint Standards Committees be approved;
- (ii) That where nominations have not been received for the non-aligned Member of the Licensing Committee, Members are appointed to this Committee seat;
- (iii) That nominations are made to the vacancies for the Working Groups set out in **APPENDIX A**;
- (iv) that three additional Members are appointed to the Environment and Sustainability Working Group.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Under Section 15(1)(b) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council can 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 There have been changes to Political Groups since the Statutory Annual Meeting which have also been taken into account.

- 3.5 The Monitoring Officer has also received notification of resignations from a number of Working Groups which require a new appointment.
- 3.6 Notification has been given 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 (6)	Leader	Councillor J Driver
	Members	Councillors: S J Burwood S Dodsley N D Spenceley P L Spenceley N J Swindle
The Maldon District Independent Group (5) (MDInd)	Leader	Councillor M G Bassenger
	Members	Councillors: A Fittock J C Hughes K Jennings E L Stephens
District Support Group (4)	Leader	Councillor K M H Lagan
	Members	Councillors: L J Haywood W Stamp, CC J C Stilts
Reform Group (2)	Leader	Councillor A S Fluker
	Members	Councillor M G Neall

- 3.7 There are a further five elected Members that are not part of a political group:
- Councillor V J Bell
 - Councillor A M Lay
 - Councillor R H Siddall
 - Councillor U G Siddall- Norman
 - Councillor S White
- 3.8 Each Member number accounts for 3.22% of membership and seat allocation.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 **Changes to Committees**
- 3.10.1 Given the change in Group sizes there are changes required to the membership of some Council Committees.

3.10.2 In order to ensure political balance across the authority the following changes are proposed for the following Committees:

Committee	Changes Required
Strategy and Resources Committee	Reduction in one seat to Liberal democrats One additional non-aligned member
Licensing Committee	Reduction of one seat to MDInd One additional seat to Non-Aligned member
Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee	Reduction in one seat to Conservatives One additional seat to MDInd

3.10.3 Nominations for these seats are set out in **APPENDIX A**

3.11 **Working Groups**

3.11.1 The Monitoring Officer has received notification from Councillor R H Siddall resigning from the following working groups:

- Finance Working Group,
- Strategic Assets Working Group; and
- Leisure Board.

3.11.2 The Council is therefore asked to appoint one member to each of the working groups set out above.

3.12 **Environment and Sustainability Working Group**

3.12.1 The Monitoring Officer has received a request that three additional Members be appointed to this Working Group.

3.12.2 The list below shows the Members currently appointed to this Working Group, which is not politically balanced:

- D O Bown
- S Dodsley
- L J Haywood
- R H Siddall
- U G C Siddall-Norman
- P L Spenceley
- E L Stephens
- J C Stilts

3.12.3 The Council is therefore asked to appoint three additional Members to the Environment and Sustainability Working Group.

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** and section 3.12 above.

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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