
APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES 2002/03

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals for the discharge of business during the 2002/03 Municipal Year.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council is invited

- (1) to agree the allocation of seats to Committees in proportion to the number of seats that each political group holds on the Council
- (2) to appoint the membership in accordance with the wishes of political group leaders
- (3) to appoint Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

3 COMMITTEES

- 3.1 Details of the Committees for 2002/2003 and Scheme of Delegation are set out in Part 3 of the Constitution. The Constitution of the Council requires that the Council appoint at least one Overview & Scrutiny Committee, a Standards Committee and such other Committees as the Council considers appropriate. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that the appointments to Committees reflect the proportion of the total number of seats on the Council held by each political group, unless otherwise agreed. In addition, if a Member is nominated to sit on a Policy Committee it is not possible for that same Member to either sit on or act as a substitute on the corresponding Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 The Corporate Director (Law, Planning and Administration) has calculated the allocation of seats on Committees in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This sets down the following criteria which must be followed when appointing Members to Committees:
- (1) that not all the seats are held by Members of the same group;
 - (2) that if a group has a majority of the membership of the Council then that group has the majority of the seats;
 - (3) that, subject to principles (1) and (2) above, the total number of seats each political group has on all ordinary Committees is in proportion to that group's share of the total Council elected membership; and

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- (4) that, subject to principles (1) (2) and (3) above, each political group has the same proportion of seats as it holds on the Council as a whole.

The only exceptions to these criteria are any Committees that the Council agrees may be constituted in some other manner.

4 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

- 4.1 The current Group Membership of the Council is as follows:

Conservative Group	28
Labour Group	4
Liberal Democrat Group	4
Independents	3

- 4.2 The proposed allocation of seats is as indicated at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 4.3 Each Group Leader has been asked to provide a list of Members to serve on Committees and details received of proposed Membership will be laid on the table at the Council meeting. The Council is reminded that, in appointing Members to Committees, it is obliged to give effect to the wishes of the Groups.

5 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

- 5.1 The Council is invited to appoint the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees. Each Group Leader has been asked to submit nominations for Members to serve as Chairman and Vice-Chairman on Committees. Details of these will be laid on the table at the Council meeting.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Provision is made within the 2002/03 estimates for the anticipated costs that will arise from the proposals contained within this report.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None other than set out in the report.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is proposed that the Council **RESOLVES**

- (1) to constitute Committees as shown at Appendix 1 to this report
- (2) to appoint the Members nominated by the Group Leaders to serve on these Committees for the current Municipal Year.
- (3) to appoint Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees. (HAMS)

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Background Papers:

None

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