

Meeting Date: **18 May 2015**

Portfolio:

Key Decision:

Within Policy and
Budget Framework

Public / Private **Public**

Title: **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS – 2015/16**

Report of: **DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE**

Report Number: **GD.31/15**

Purpose / Summary:

Following the City Council Elections on 7 May 2015, this Report informs Members of the consequent change to the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels for the Municipal Year 2015/16 and the nominations of the political groups to those seats.

Recommendation:

Council agree:

1. That the report of the Director of Governance – Appointment of Committees and Panels 2015/16 – be received and approved, and that the allocation of seats on and the appointment of Members to the various Committees and Panels of the Council as set out in the Report and Schedules attached be approved.
2. That the Council's two independent persons, appointed pursuant to section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011, Jane Elliott (formerly Jane Salmon) and Keith Thomas be appointed as co-opted members of the Employment Panel only for dealing with matters relating to the dismissal of relevant officers in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001.

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Tracking

Council:	9 June 2014
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APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS 2015/2016

SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. On 7 May 2015 City Council elections were held which resulted in a change to the composition of the Council.
2. It is, therefore, necessary for the Council to review the allocation of the seats on Council Committees and Panels so that they reflect pro-rata the strengths of the political groups on the Council and comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. There has been a change in the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats to the groups, therefore, falls to be reviewed.
3. Due to the timing of the Elections and the date for the despatch of reports for the Annual Council Meeting it is not possible to complete the calculations prior to sending this Report out to Members. At the time of the said Council Meeting, the seats to be allocated to the political Groups will have been re-calculated and the Group Leaders informed. The appendices to this Report will follow as soon as possible and these are:

Appendix 1 The Method of Allocation of Seats

Appendix 2 The Calculation of Aggregate Entitlement to Seats.

The Allocation of Seats on Committees.

The Groups' nominations for appointments to Committees/Panels for the Municipal year 2015/2016.

4. In addition to elected Members having seats on Committees and Sub-Committees, for the purpose of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 as regards the procedure to be followed in connection with the proposed dismissal of the Council's statutory officers, the Council appoints its two Independent Members (as appointed pursuant to section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011) to its Employment Panel. This report recommends the further appointment of the said Independent Persons for the forthcoming Municipal Year.
5. IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Report of the Director of Governance – Appointment of Committees and Panels 2015/2016 – be received and approved, and that the allocation of seats on, and the appointment of Members to, the various Committees and Panels as set out in the Report and Schedules be approved.

Appendix 1

1. METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS

- 1.1 The rules governing the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels to Political Groups are set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulations made thereunder. The Executive is exempt from the application of those rules and does not have to be politically balanced. The Licensing Committee is also exempt from the rules on political balance, although DCMS do recommend that it should be balanced as far as possible and the Council therefore decided (Minute C.246/04(b)) that it should be comprised of the same members as form the Regulatory Panel. The political balance rules strictly therefore only apply to the Committees and Panels shown in the Appendix attached.

The rules governing the allocation are relatively complex and are:

- (i) That not all the seats are allocated to the same Political Group.
- (ii) That the majority of the seats on each Committee go to the Political Group with the majority on the full Council.
- (iii) Subject to the above two principles, that the total number of the Committee seats allocated to each Group bears the same proportion to the proportion of the Group on the full Council.
- (iv) Subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each Committee allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion of the Group on the full Council.

It is important to note in understanding the allocations shown in the Appendix that the above principles must be applied in the sequential order set out above. For example, the principle in paragraph (iii) above of ensuring that the Groups are allocated their total aggregate entitlement must be complied with before the number of seats on each Committee is balanced in accordance with principle (iv).

- 1.2 The duty is to apply the above principles so far as reasonably practicable. This is met by rounding down fractional entitlements of less than a half and rounding up entitlements of a half or more. If there are competing fractions then the higher fraction will “win”. If this leads to a bigger entitlement than there are seats

available on a Committee then fractions have to be rounded down to make entitlements fit available seats.

2. CALCULATION OF THE GROUPS' ENTITLEMENT ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS

- 2.1 There are in total 77 seats to be allocated by the Council on the Regulatory Panel, the Development Control Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Standards Committee, the Employment Panel, the Audit Committee and the Appeals Panels. The Conservative Group has 20 Members, Labour 29, the Liberal Democrats 1 and the Independent Group have 2 Members. As can be seen from the calculations in the Appendix attached, when working out the total aggregate allocation to each Political Group relative to their strengths on the Council, the Conservatives should receive 30 seats, Labour 43 seats, the Liberal Democrats 1 seat and the Independent Group get 3 seats.
- 2.2 When the seats are allocated on each Committee on a straight allocation following the rounding up/rounding down principles set out above, the Labour Group remain the same as do the Independent Group. The Conservative Group gain two seats, whilst the Liberal Democrat Group each lose two seats. Some minor adjustment is, therefore, necessary.
- 2.3 The Conservative Group gain an extra seat on both the Regulatory Panel and the Development Control Committee, taking the places previously held by the Independent Group and the Liberal Democrats. It is, to reflect the revised proportions on each committee, proposed to adjust the entitlement to seats so that the Liberal Democrats have a seat on the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee whilst the Independent Group have one seat on Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny and one seat on two of the Council's Appeal Panels (numbers 1 and 2).

Appendix 2

CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS

1. The political balance on the full Council is:-

20 Conservatives; 29 Labour; 1 Liberal Democrat and 2 Independent Members

2. There are 77 seats in total on those Committees and Panels which are subject to the proportionality rules giving aggregate entitlements to the groups as follows:

Conservative	$\frac{20}{52} \times 77 = 29.62$	30 rounded up
Labour	$\frac{29}{52} \times 77 = 42.94$	43 rounded up
Liberal Democrat	$\frac{1}{52} \times 77 = 1.48$	1 rounded down
Independent	$\frac{2}{52} \times 77 = 2.96$	3 rounded up

ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS – 2015/2016

	CONSERVATIVES	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	INDEPENDENT
Regulatory Panel (12)	(4.62) 5	(6.69) 7	(0.23) 0	(0.46) 0
Development Control (12)	(4.62) 5	(6.69) 7	(0.23) 0	(0.46) 0
Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel (8)	(3.08) 3	(4.46) 5	(0.15) 0	(0.31) 0
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel (8)	(3.08) 3	(4.46) 4	(0.15) 1	(0.31) 0
Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel (8)	(3.08) 3	(4.46) 4	(0.15) 0	(0.31) 1
Standards Committee (7)	(2.69) 3	(3.90) 4	(0.13) 0	(0.27) 0
Employment Panel (6)	(2.31) 2	(3.35) 4	(0.12) 0	(0.23) 0
Audit Committee (7)	(2.69) 3	(3.90) 4	(0.13) 0	(0.27) 0
Appeals Panel 1 (3)	(1.15) 1	(1.67) 1	(0.06) 0	(0.12) 1
Appeals Panel 2 (3)	(1.15) 1	(1.67) 1	(0.06) 0	(0.12) 1
Appeals Panel 3 (3)	(1.15) 1	(1.67) 2	(0.06) 0	(0.12) 0
TOTAL	<u>30</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

(77 seats in all)

COMMITTEES AND PANELS (TO BE APPOINTED BY COUNCIL)