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| <b>CITY COUNCIL</b> | <b>Agenda Item:</b><br><br><b>7</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|

Meeting Date: 4 MARCH 2014  
 Portfolio:  
 Key Decision:  
 Within Policy and Budget Framework  
 Public / Private Public

Title: APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS – 2013/14  
 Report of: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE  
 Report Number: GD.13 /14

**Purpose / Summary:**

The Report informs Members of the resignation of Councillor Craig as a member of the Conservative Group and his decision to join the Independent Group. It further informs Members of the consequent change to the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2013/14 and the nominations of the political groups to those seats.

**Recommendation:**

That the report of the Director of Governance – Appointment of Committees and Panels 2013/14 – 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

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**Tracking**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Executive:             |  |
| Overview and Scrutiny: |  |
| Council:               |  |

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS 2013/2014

### SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. The Director of Governance has received notice from Councillor Craig of his resignation from the Conservative Group as from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014. From that date he will be serving as a member of the Independent Group.
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. The seats to be allocated to the political Groups have been re-calculated and the Group Leaders informed. The method of allocation is set out in Appendix 1. Schedules showing the Groups' nominations for appointments to Committees/Panels for the Municipal year 2013/2014 in respect of the seats allocated to them will be circulated shortly.
4. IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Report of the Director of Governance – Appointment of Committees and Panels 2013/2014 – 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 attached 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 18 Members, Labour 28, the Liberal Democrats 3 and the Independent Group have 3 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 27 seats, Labour 42 seats, the Liberal Democrats 4 seats and the Independent Group get 4 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 gain one seat as do the Independent Group whilst the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrat Group each lose one seat. Some minor adjustment is, therefore, necessary.
- 2.3 It is, therefore, proposed to adjust the entitlement to seats so that the Labour Group will gain an additional seat on Appeals Panel 3; the Independent Group gain an extra seat on the Standards Committee. The Conservative Group has one seat less on the Standards Committee and the Liberal Democrat Group lose one seat on Appeals Panel 3.

## Appendix 2

### CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS

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

18 Conservatives; 28 Labour; 3 Liberal Democrats and 3 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     | $\frac{18}{52} \times 77 = 26.65$ | 27 rounded up  |
| Labour           | $\frac{28}{52} \times 77 = 41.46$ | 42 rounded up  |
| Liberal Democrat | $\frac{3}{52} \times 77 = 4.44$   | 4 rounded down |
| Independent      | $\frac{3}{52} \times 77 = 4.44$   | 4 rounded down |

## ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS

|  | CONSERVATIVES    | LABOUR           | LIBERAL<br>DEMOCRATS | INDEPENDENT     |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Regulatory Panel (12)  | (4.15) 4         | (6.46) 6         | (0.69) 1             | (0.69) 1        |
| Development Control (12)   | (4.15) 4         | (6.46) 6         | (0.69) 1             | (0.69) 1        |
| Community Overview and<br>Scrutiny Panel (8)                         | (2.77) 3         | (4.31) 4         | (0.46) 1             | (0.46) 0        |
| Resources Overview<br>and Scrutiny Panel (8)                         | (2.77) 3         | (4.31) 4         | (0.46) 1             | (0.46) 0        |
| Environment and<br>Infrastructure Overview and<br>Scrutiny Panel (8) | (2.77) 3         | (4.31) 4         | (0.46) 0             | (0.46) 1        |
| Standards Committee (7)  | (2.42) 2         | (3.77) 4         | (0.40) 0             | (0.40) 1        |
| Employment Panel (6)   | (2.08) 2         | (3.23) 4         | (0.35) 0             | (0.35) 0        |
| Audit Committee (7)  | (2.42) 3         | (3.77) 4         | (0.40) 0             | (0.40) 0        |
| Appeals Panel 1 (3)  | (1.04) 1         | (1.62) 2         | (0.17) 0             | (0.17) 0        |
| Appeals Panel 2 (3)  | (1.04) 1         | (1.62) 2         | (0.17) 0             | (0.17) 0        |
| Appeals Panel 3 (3)  | (1.04) 1         | (1.62) 2         | (0.17) 0             | (0.17) 0        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b><u>27</u></b> | <b><u>42</u></b> | <b><u>4</u></b>      | <b><u>4</u></b> |

(77 seats in all)

**COMMITTEES AND PANELS (TO BE APPOINTED BY COUNCIL)**