

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	14 May 2018

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Council will be asked to consider the appointment of its committees, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Local Government Act 1972.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To appoint the following Council committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix 11(a) and to agree that the powers and duties remain as set out in the Council's Constitution:

- Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee (membership of eight with a composition of five Labour and three Conservative)
- Resilient Communities and Children's Scrutiny Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
- Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative)
- Audit Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour, three Conservative plus one co-opted member)
- Appeals Committee (membership of six and with a composition of five Labour and one Conservative)
- Planning Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative)
- Standards Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative)
- Chief Officers Employment Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative)
- Shareholder's Advisory Board (membership of four and with a composition of three Labour and one Conservative)

2.2 That in relation to scrutiny, to agree to continue with two diocesan co-opted representatives and the two governor co-opted representatives to the Resilient Communities and Children's Scrutiny Committee and for that committee to make the necessary appointments.

- 2.3 That the Licensing Committee also be re-appointed with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (membership of fifteen and a composition of ten Labour and five Conservative).
- 2.4 Subject to (2.3) above, the Licensing Committee be requested to re-appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
- 2.5 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to note the appointment of members to committees as set out in Appendix 11(b) and thereafter any nominations or changes to nominations reported to the Director of Governance and Partnerships by the relevant Group Leader.
- 2.6 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to agree to the appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for those committees as identified at Appendix 11(b) based on the above recommendations.
- 2.7 To confirm the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the appointment of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board as set out in Appendix 11(b).
- 2.8 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to agree that the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To enable Council business to be transacted by various committees and for the size of the committees to reflect the current political balance of the political groups on the Council. This will also meet statutory requirements.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

There are no other options other than a different or varied set of committees; however, the current committees have been appointed by Council in recent years and help transact the business of Council efficiently.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The appointment of Council committees will help the Council achieve all its priorities.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 **Proposed committees** – the committees and their number of members are set out below:

- Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny (seven members)
- Resilient Communities and Children’s Scrutiny (nine members plus four co-opted members)
- Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny (eight members)
- Audit (nine members plus one co-opted independent member)
- Appeals (six members)
- Planning (seven members)
- Standards (seven members)
- Chief Officers Employment (seven members)
- Licensing (fifteen members)
- Shareholder’s Advisory Board (four members)

5.2 As indicated at Appendix 11 (a), in order for the committees to balance, there has to be a reduction in size of four seats across the full allocation of seats on committees. Following consultation with the two Group Leaders, the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee has reduced in size from nine members to seven, the Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee has reduced from nine members to eight and the Appeals Committee has also reduced in size from seven members to six.

5.3 Although not subject to political balance rules, it is recommended that the same methodology be applied to Licensing and for a committee of fifteen there would be ten Labour councillors and five Conservative councillors.

5.4 The Licensing Committee would also need to appoint one permanent sub-committee - Public Protection - which is subject to the political balance rules and therefore has to be included in the aggregated proportionality calculations.

5.5 In 2013, the Council appointed a Health and Wellbeing Board. The membership of the Board is also listed at Appendix 11(b).

5.6 A full schedule of political balance calculations for all the proposed committees and the permanent sub-committee is attached at Appendix 11(a). These have been allocated by ‘political group’. A ‘political group’ is one which has been constituted in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political

Groups) Regulations 1990 and consists of at least two members. This therefore precludes the Council's two Independent councillors from these calculations.

- 5.7 **Appointment of Chairmen** - the appointment of Chairmen of committees can be undertaken by either the Council or the committees themselves. At previous Annual Council meetings, the Council has appointed the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen and it is recommended that this practice continues. Appendix 11(b) lists the notified names of committee members and proposed chairmanship and vice-chairmanship positions. (The appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for the Public Protection Sub-Committee is a matter for the Licensing Committee to deal with).
- 5.8 It is recommended that as has been previous practice:
- the Chairman of the Audit Committee is from the opposition group and the Vice Chairman from the majority group
 - the Chairmen of scrutiny committees are from the majority group and the Vice-Chairmen from the opposition group
 - all other proposals for Chairmen and Vice Chairmen are proposed from the majority group.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 11(a) - Political balance calculations

Appendix 11(b) - Proposed membership of the Council's committees and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6.0 Legal considerations:

- 6.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review periodically the political composition of the Authority and how this is applied to appointments to Council bodies. The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990. See:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1990/1553/regulation/17/made>

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

- 7.1 There are no Human Resources considerations.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

- 8.1 There are no equalities considerations.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 Special responsibility allowances for the proposed Chairman and Vice Chairman are met from the Members Allowances budget.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Failure to appoint certain committees will hinder the Council in maintaining its statutory duties ie consideration of planning applications, hearing of appeals etc.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 The Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group put forward nominations for their representatives to serve on the recommended committees.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.