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, with powers and duties as set out either in the Council’s Constitution or previously agreed earlier on the agenda:

- Scrutiny Leadership Board
- Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee
- Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee
- Audit Committee
- Appeals Committee
- Planning Committee
- Standards Committee
- Chief Officers Employment Committee
- Shareholder’s Advisory Board

2.2 To agree the political balance attached at Appendix 11(a) and appointments to the above committees at Appendix 11(b), the latter will be circulated separately.

2.3 To reappoint the Licensing Committee with the powers and duties as set out in the Constitution (membership of fifteen and a composition of eight Labour, five Conservative, one Norbreck Independent and one Blackpool Independent).

2.4 Subject to (2.3) above, to request the Licensing Committee to re-appoint the Public Protection Sub-Committee, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution including the Chair and Vice-Chair.
2.5 To agree that any nominations or changes to committees be reported to the Director of Governance and Partnerships by the relevant Group Leader for implementation.

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) (to be circulated separately) based on the above recommendations.

2.7 To confirm the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board as set out in Appendix 11(b) (to be circulated separately).

2.8 To agree that the quorum of the Shareholder’s Advisory Board is two members.

2.9 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 are set out below:

- Scrutiny Leadership Board
- Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee
• Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee
• Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee
• Audit Committee
• Appeals Committee
• Planning Committee
• Standards Committee
• Chief Officers Employment Committee
• Shareholder’s Advisory Board

5.2 Following the all out election on 2 May, the political makeup is 23 Labour, 15 Conservative and two groups of two independent members – the Norbreck Independent Group (comprising of Councillors Maxine and Peter Callow) and the Blackpool Independents (comprising of Councillors Gary and Debbie Coleman). Prior to the election, it was 26 Labour, 12 Conservative, three Blackpool Independent Residents Group and one independent member. This has caused a need to review the political balance calculations in order to meet the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the associated regulations.

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 would be eight Labour councillors, five Conservative councillors, one Norbreck Independent councillor and one Blackpool Independent group councillor.

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 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.

5.6 **Appointment of Chairs** – these can be undertaken by either the Council or the committees themselves. At previous Annual Council meetings, the Council has appointed the Chairs and Vice Chairs and it is recommended that this practice continues. Appendix 11(b) (to be circulated separately) lists the notified names of committee members and proposed chair and vice-chair positions. The appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair for the Public Protection Sub-Committee is a matter for the Licensing Committee to deal with.
5.7 It is recommended that as has been previous practice:

- the Chair of the Audit Committee is from the principal opposition group and the Vice Chair from the majority group
- all other proposals for Chairs and Vice Chairs are proposed from the majority group.

The Chairs of scrutiny committees are referred to in the previous item.

**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 (To be circulated separately)

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:


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 Chairs and Vice Chairs are met from the Members Allowances’ budget, which is currently subject to review and will be reported to the June Council meeting.

10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Failure to appoint certain committees will hinder the Council in maintaining its
statutory duties i.e. 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 Group Leaders 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.