

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Head of Democratic Services
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	25 th June 2014

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Council will be asked to consider a review of the political balance calculations following the election of 3 councillors at the recent by elections held on 22nd May 2014.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To re-appoint the following Committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix X(a). These are:

- Scrutiny Committee (membership of fourteen and with a composition of nine Labour and five Conservative)
- Health Scrutiny Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
- Planning Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
- Appeals Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative)
- Finance and Audit Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
- Standards Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative).
- Chief Officers Employment Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative).

2.2 Subject to the appointment of the Committees as set out in 2.1 above, to agree that the powers and duties of those Committees remain as set out in the Constitution.

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, four Conservative and one Liberal Democrat).

- 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 (2.1) above, that the Scrutiny Committee be requested to appoint a 'Call In' Sub Committee, (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative), to meet as and when required, with the powers and duties, as set out in the Constitution.
- 2.6 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, four Conservative and one Liberal Democrat).
- 2.7 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to note the appointment of members to Committees as set out in Appendix X(b).
- 2.8 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to confirm the re-appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for those Committees and the six Scrutiny Lead Members identified at Appendix X(b) based on the above recommendations.
- 2.9 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to agree that the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly and report back to Council on revised political balance calculations at the September meeting following the Clifton By Election.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 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 as the Council has to abide by the political balance calculations unless it comes to a decision to applying different calculations, however in this instance then no member must vote against it.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The appointment of Council Committees will help the Council deliver all its priorities.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 At the Annual Meeting on 12th May 2014, it was agreed that a further report be submitted to the June Council meeting to review the political balance calculations and their effect on Committees following the election of three councillors at the by elections on 22nd May 2014.

5.2 The by elections were held and 3 Labour councillors were elected. This means that there will be some changes to the political balance calculations agreed at the Annual Meeting. However, since the last meeting Councillor Greenhalgh has sadly passed away creating a vacancy on the Council, which has an effect on the political balance calculations. The calculations are set out at Appendix X (b) to reflect this. A further review will be required at the September meeting following the Clifton ward by election which has just been called.

5.3 The Licensing Committee is not subject to political balance rules, however the Council has sought to apply proportionality, with the addition of the Liberal Democrat member. This Committee would also revert back to its membership of 15 members.

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. To accommodate the revised calculations then the Public Protection Sub-Committee would also revert back to its membership of seven members.

5.5 With regards to the scrutiny process, then at the Annual Council meeting the Council agreed to the appointment of six 'lead' members on a political balance basis (reversed) to four Conservative and two Labour. The revised calculations would not change these appointments.

5.6 The Scrutiny Committee has previously agreed to appoint a Sub Committee to deal with the 'call in' of Executive decisions function. This is also subject to the political balance rules and therefore has to be included in the aggregated proportionality calculations. The revised political balance calculations would see this Sub Committee revert back in size to nine members.

5.7 **Appointment of Chairmen** - with changes to the sizes and composition of committees, the appointment of chairmen and vice chairmen also needs to be

reconfirmed. Appendix X (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 Call In Sub-Committee and the Public Protection Sub-Committee is a matter for their Parent Committees to deal with).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix X (a) sets out the political balance calculations

Appendix X (b) sets out the proposed members to be appointed to Committees.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require 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/uksi/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 There are no additional financial considerations.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Failure to take account of the political balance changes will mean that the Council is not following the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has previously been undertaken with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group regarding their representatives to serve on the recommended Committees.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.