

COUNCIL – 17TH MAY 2021

Report of the Chief Executive

ITEM 7 POLITICAL BALANCE AND APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES FOR 2021/22

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the political balance of the Council's committees for 2021/22 in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
2. To consider appointments to committees (including Chairs and Vice-chairs where applicable) for 2021/22 in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
3. To consider other appointments as required.

Recommendations

1. That the political balance arrangements for the Council year 2021/22, as set out in appendix 1 to this report, be approved in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
2. That appointments be made to the Council's committees, including to the positions of Chair and Vice-chair where applicable, for the Council year 2021/22.
3. That the membership of the Loughborough Area Committee be noted.
4. That appointments of a representative on the Police and Crime Panel and a substitute be made for the Council year 2021/22.
5. That 3 councillors be appointed to the Housing Management Advisory Board on the basis of political balance (2 Conservative and 1 Labour).

Reasons

1. To ensure that the composition of the Council's committees reflects the political balance of the Council.
2. To reflect the wishes of political groups and make allocations to non-grouped councillors in making appointments to committees in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

3. To provide information regarding the membership of those committees.
4. To ensure that the Borough Council is represented on the Panel.
5. To make appointments to the Board for 2021/22.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Each year the Council has to formally set the political balance arrangements, which will be used to allocate seats on the Council's committees, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The political balance calculations for 2021/22 are set out in appendix 1.

Appointments made to the Licensing Committee do not have to be on the basis of political balance but by convention this method is used to allocate seats.

The Loughborough Area Committee is not included in the political balance calculations and comprises the 20 councillors who represent the 10 Loughborough wards.

In making appointments to committees, Council also appoints the Chair and Vice-chair(s) except in the case of the Chair and Vice-chair of the Audit Committee, the Independent Chair being appointed by a separate process and the Vice-chair being appointed by the Audit Committee, and the Loughborough Area Committee, which appoints its own Chair and Vice-chair.

On 17th September 2012, the Council approved Charnwood's participation in the Joint Police and Crime Panel for the Leicestershire Police Area (Council Minute 31.1 2012/13 refers). Appointments to the Panel are a matter for Council, as the Panel operates as a joint committee of the relevant authorities within the Police area.

The Housing Management Advisory Board was established to promote tenant and leaseholder engagement in decisions relating to the Council's housing stock. The composition of the Board includes 3 Borough Councillor members appointed on the basis of political balance. The current political balance of the Council results in 2 appointments being made by the Conservative group and 1 from the Labour group. Nominations have been sought from both groups accordingly.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The number of seats for each political group and for ungrouped councillors for both the overall entitlement and the entitlement for individual committees for the 2021/21 Council year are attached as an appendix.

Political groups will confirm their nominations for each of the committees. These nominations, along with nominations for Chairs and Vice-chairs (where appropriate) and appointments for non-grouped councillors will be circulated in due course.

Report Implications

Financial Implications

None.

Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified in connection with this report.

Background Papers: None

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Appendix 1 - Political Balance Arrangements and Allocation of Seats - Local Government and Housing Act 1989