

Item

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL



To:

Civic Affairs Committee 18/05/2020

Report by:

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Wards affected:

All

1. Introduction

1.1 The report details the issues to consider and decide for recommendation to Council on 28 May 2020. An update paper will be published on 18 May when additional information from the political groups will have been received.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To recommend to Council:

- (i) The city council committees and the nominations to the joint and partner bodies (as current) in paragraph 3.2 and updated in a paper to be circulated on 18 May.
- (ii) The nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs (as current) in paragraph 3.3 and updated in a paper to be circulated on 13 May.
- (iii) Constitutional updates required as part of the Annual Meeting process.

3. Background

Appointing Committees

- 3.1 City Council all-out elections scheduled for 7 May were cancelled under the Coronavirus Act 2020. Following on, The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 which came into force on 4 April, permit local authorities to carry over appointments made at Annual Meetings in 2019. Therefore, Civic Affairs Committee is to consider any departure from the current committees (ie. status quo) and make recommendations to the Annual Meeting of the Council accordingly.
- 3.2 The rules on political balance set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 still apply to both scrutiny and regulatory committee composition so that, once the size of committees has been determined, the division of seats among the political groups on the Council will be automatic and the Council must appoint those members which each political group puts forward for its seats.

In considering the allocation of committee places to political groups, the Council is legally required to take into account the following principles:

- i) That the controlling group should have a majority of seats on each committee.
- ii) That the total number of committee places allocated to each political group must be in proportion to the number of members of that group on the Council.
- iii) That on each committee the number of places allocated to each political group must be in proportion to the number of members of that group on the Council.

The order of precedence of these principles is the order in which they are given - i.e. (i) takes highest priority, then (ii) then (iii). If you choose to depart from proportionality, Full Council must not only agree, but no single Member must dissent.

- 3.2 The existing city council committees and size are listed below. The

Council (or committees in respect of sub-committees) will appoint one alternate member in respect of each political group represented on that committee or sub-committee and two in the case of the major Scrutiny Committees for groups with more than one committee member. Unlike a substitute system, the city council's own committees use an Alternate Member where the councillor is a named member from a political group and preferably unchanged for the municipal year who will sit in for any committee member of the same political group who is unable to attend any meeting in the year that they are scheduled to attend.

- 3.3 The proportionality for both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit and Governance Committee should not change but we will be notified if so.

Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee
Current Numbers- 8 (5 Labour + 3 Lib Dem)

Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee
Current Numbers- 9 (5 Labour + 3 Lib Dem+1 Ind)

Housing Scrutiny Committee
Current Numbers- 8 (5 Labour + 3 Lib Dem)

Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Current Numbers- 5 (3 Labour+ 2 Lib Dem)

Civic Affairs Committee
Current Numbers- 6 (4 Labour +2 Lib Dem)

Licensing Committee
Current Numbers- 11 (8 Labour+ 4 Lib Dem)

Planning Committee
Current Numbers- 8 (5 Labour+ 3 Lib Dem)

Employment (Senior Officer) Committee
Current Numbers- 6 (4 Labour +2 Lib Dem)

Employment Appeals Sub-Committee

Current Numbers- 6 (4 Labour +2 Lib Dem)
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Cambridge City Joint Area Committee (with County Council)*
Current Numbers- 6 (4 Labour +2 Lib Dem)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Current Numbers- 1 (Leader of the Council) + 1 substitute (Deputy Leader)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Current Numbers- 1 Labour + 1 Lib Dem

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Audit and Governance Committee
Current Numbers 1Labour + 1 alternate member

Greater Cambridge City Deal Joint Assembly
Current Numbers- 3 (2 Labour + 1 Lib Dem)

Joint Development Control Committee - Cambridge Fringes*
Current Numbers- 6 (4 Labour+ 2 Lib Dem)

*Nb - Cambridgeshire County is to consider at its Full Council on 19 May 2020 disbanding the Cambridge Joint Area Committee and also withdrawing from the Joint Development Control Committee with effect from July 2020.

Chairs and Vice Chairs

3.3 The Civic Affairs Committee is requested to make nominations for any changes to the current Chairs and Vice Chairs . A paper listing any nominations will be circulated at the committee:

- Strategy and Resources
- Environment and Community Services
- Planning and Transport
- Housing (note - Chair is a Councillor, the Vice Chair is a tenant/leaseholder)

- Civic Affairs
- Licensing

Committee working parties and appointments to outside bodies

- 3.4 Procedural meetings of the relevant scrutiny and regulatory committees are usually held at an adjourned point during the Annual Meeting of the Council to confirm working parties and to note the membership of them. Executive Councillors also agree appointments to outside bodies. Officers will table proposals on 18 May on how this could work in a virtual meeting.

Constitutional Changes

- 3.4 The Committee will receive an update at its meeting of any constitutional matters requiring consideration. Although none are anticipated at the time of publication, this exists to afford the committee the opportunity to consider any.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

None.

(b) Staffing Implications

None

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

None

(d) Environmental Implications

None

(e) Procurement Implications

None

(f) Community Safety Implications

None

5. Consultation and communication considerations

None

6. Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

7. Appendices

None

8. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Gary Clift, Democratic Services Manager, tel: 01223 - 457011, email: gary.clift@cambridge.gov.uk.