

Item

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL



To:

Civic Affairs Committee 17/05/2021

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 27 May 2021.
- 1.2 This report is being published before the results of the city council elections are known. Updated information relating to this report will be published on or before 17 May.

2. Recommendations

To recommend to Council:

- (i) The city council committees and the nominations to the joint and partner bodies in paragraph 3.3 (as current) and updated in a paper to be circulated on 17 May.
- (ii) The nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs in paragraph 3.4 (as current) and updated in a paper to be circulated on 17 May.

- (iii) Any Constitutional updates required as part of the Annual Meeting process as set out in reports to be circulated before committee or on 17 May.

3. Background

Appointing Committees

3.1 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.

Alternate Members of Committees

3.2 The Council (or committees in respect of sub-committees) will appoint an 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 (although a Group may choose to appoint just one). Unlike a substitute system, the city council use an Alternate Member where the councillor is a named member from a political group and

preferably unchanged for the whole municipal year. The Alternate Member will sit in for any member of the same political group who is unable to attend a meeting.

- 3.3 The proportionality for both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit and Governance Committee is set by the Combined Authority and the Council will be notified if it changes following elections on 6 May.

Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee

Current Numbers - 8 (5 Labour + 3 Lib Dem)
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Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee
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Current Numbers - 9 (5 Labour + 3 Lib Dem + 1 Ind)
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Housing Scrutiny Committee

Current Numbers - 8 (5 Labour + 3 Lib Dem)
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Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
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Current Numbers - 6 (4 Labour+ 2 Lib Dem)

Civic Affairs Committee

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

Current Numbers - 10 (6 Labour + 4 Lib Dem)

Planning Committee

Current Numbers - 8 (5 Labour + 3 Lib Dem)
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Employment (Senior Officer) Committee
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Current Numbers - 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)
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Employment Appeals Sub-Committee

Current Numbers - 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)
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Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Current Numbers - 1 (Leader of the Council) + 1 substitute (Deputy Leader)
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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 1 Labour + 1 alternate member
Greater Cambridge City Deal Joint Assembly
Current Numbers- 3 (2 Labour + 1 Lib Dem)
Joint Development Control Committee
Current Numbers- 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)

Chairs and Vice Chairs

- 3.3 The Civic Affairs Committee is requested to make nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs to the committees listed. A paper with any nominations will be circulated on 17 May:

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
 Planning
 Joint Development Control Committee (*Vice – Chair appointment for 2021/22 as alternates with South Cambridgeshire DC)

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 17 May on how this could work on 27 May.

Constitutional Changes

3.5 The Committee will receive an update at its meeting of any constitutional matters requiring consideration.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

(b) Staffing Implications

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

(d) Environmental Implications

(e) Procurement Implications

(f) Community Safety Implications

5. Consultation and communication considerations

None

6. Contact

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