

Item

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL



To:

Civic Affairs Committee 15/05/2023

Report by:

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Wards affected:

All

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The report details the issues to consider following the local elections on 4 May 2023 and makes recommendations to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 25 May 2023.
- 1.2 This report is being published on 4 May, the day of the city council elections. There will be updated information published on 15 May, before the committee meeting when the implications of the results of the elections are known.

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 updated on 15 May).
- (ii) The nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs in paragraph 3.4 (as updated on 15 May).

- (iii) Any Constitutional updates required as set out in 3.6 and/or circulated before committee.
- (iv) To note that a Governance Reference Group will meet informally and make recommendations on Terms of Reference for this Committee to agree at its 5 July 2023 meeting.
- (v) To consider any nominations for Honorary Councillors.
- (vi) To note the intention to re-establish a Cambridge Joint Area Committee with the County Council

3. Background

Appointing Committees

3.1 The rules on political balance set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 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).

For May 2022, 42 councillors made up of 29 Labour, 9 Lib Dem and 4 Green/Independent, translated proportionally against a seat availability on ordinary committees of 61 seats at 41, 13 and 7 respectively. 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 alternate members in respect of each political group represented on that committee or sub-committee. Two alternate members can be appointed 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 the Audit and Governance Committee is set by the Combined Authority and the Council will be notified if it changes following elections on 4 May.

Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee

Current Numbers - 9 (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 G/I)
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Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee
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Current Numbers - 9 (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 G/I)
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Housing Scrutiny Committee

Current Numbers - 9 (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 G/I)
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Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
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Current Numbers - 9 (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 G/I)
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Civic Affairs Committee

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

Current Numbers - 10 (7 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 G/I)

Planning Committee

Current Numbers - 9 (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 G/I)
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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)

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 (proportionality set by the Combined Authority may change after elections)
Current Numbers - 2 Labour + 1 Labour alternate

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Audit and Governance Committee (proportionality set by the Combined Authority may change after elections)
Current Numbers 1 Labour + 1 Labour alternate

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

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

Chairs and Vice Chairs

3.4 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 15 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 (City is due to be Vice-Chair for 2023/24)

Committee working parties and appointments to outside bodies

- 3.5 Procedural meetings of the relevant scrutiny and regulatory committees are 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.

Constitutional matters

- 3.6 The Council aims to review its governance arrangements in 2023/24. A Governance Reference Group will meet informally in June with a view to submitting Terms of Reference for approval by Committee on 5 July 2023.

Honorary Councillors

- 3.7 The Council may appoint Honorary Councillors. The scheme is appended. Group Leaders have been provided with a list of former Councillors who meet the criteria.

4. Implications

- (a) Financial Implications** None
- (b) Staffing Implications** None
- (c) Equality and Poverty Implications** None
- (d) Environmental Implications** None
- (e) Procurement Implications** not applicable
- (f) Community Safety Implications** not applicable

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.