

REPORT TITLE: Committee Appointments for Annual Council

To: Civic Affairs Committee (19 May 2026)

Report by: Dan Kalley, Democratic Services Manager
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Wards affected:

None

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Civic Affairs Committee recommend to Council:

1. The city council committees and the nominations to the joint and partner bodies (as updated on 19 May).
2. The nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs (as updated on 19 May).

2. Purpose and reason for the report

- 2.1 The report details the issues to consider following the elections on 7 May 2026 and makes recommendations to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 21 May 2026.
- 2.2 This report is being published on 13 May 2026. There will be updated information published on 19 May 2026, before the committee meeting. This enables further information following the meeting of groups and nominations are known.

3. Alternative options considered

- 3.1 Appointments to Committees are a legal function of Full Council and no alternative options are applicable.

4. Background and key issues

4.1 Appointing Committees

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).

If you choose to depart from proportionality, Full Council must not only agree, but no single Member must dissent.

Named Substitute Members of Committees

The Council (or committees in respect of sub-committees) will appoint named substitute members in respect of each political group represented on that committee or sub-committee. Two named substitute members can be appointed for groups with more than one committee member (although a Group may choose to appoint just one). The named substitute will sit in for any member of the same political group who is unable to attend a meeting.

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 7 May 2026.

Committee allocations prior to 7th May 2026 local elections

Performance, Assets & Strategy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Current Numbers - 8 (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem+1 Green)
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Services, Communities & Climate Overview & Scrutiny Committee
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Current Numbers – 9 (5 Labour + 3 Lib Dem + 1 Green)
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Civic Affairs & Audit Committee
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Current Numbers - 7 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)
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Licensing Act 2003 & Gambling Act 2005 Committee (Statutory Committee) & General Purposes & Licensing Committee (note two committees with same membership)

Current Numbers - 10 (7 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Planning Committee

Current Numbers - 8 (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem +1 Green)

Employment Committee

Current Numbers - 7 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)
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Cambridge Joint Area Committee – Joint with Cambridgeshire County Council

Current Numbers – 6 (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Joint Planning Advisory Group – Joint with South Cambridgeshire

Numbers as per current proportionality – 5 (3 Labour + 1 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

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 - 1 Labour + 1 Labour substitute & 1 Green + 1 Green substitute

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Audit and Governance Committee (proportionality set by the Combined Authority may change after elections)

Current Numbers 1 Labour + 1 Labour substitute

Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly

Current Numbers- 3 (2 Labour + 1 Lib Dem)

Joint Development Management Committee

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

Chairs and Vice Chairs

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 12 May:

- Performance, Assets & Strategy Overview & Scrutiny
- Services, Communities & Climate Overview & Scrutiny
- Civic Affairs & Audit
- Employment
- Licensing Act 2003 & Gambling Act 2005 (Statutory Committee) & General Purposes & Licensing Committee
- Planning
- Joint Planning Advisory Group (Chair/Vice Chair to be agreed at first meeting, then alternate each year)
- Joint Development Management Committee (Cambridge City is due to be Chair for 2026/27)

Appointments to outside bodies and working groups

A report on appointments to outside bodies and working groups will be presented to the Annual Council meeting on 21 May 2026.

5. Corporate plan

- 5.1 Appointments to committee's are essential to decision making affecting the Council's Corporate Plan.

6. Consultation, engagement and communication

- 6.1 The Civic Affairs Committee are the body who makes recommendations to Council on appointments to the formal committee's of the Council.

7. Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact

7.1 Recommendations are made to the Annual meeting for appointments to committee places.

8. Implications

8.1 Relevant risks

There are none.

Financial Implications

8.2 There are none.

Legal Implications

8.3 There are none.

Equalities and socio-economic Implications

8.4 There are none.

Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications

8.5 There are none.

Procurement Implications

8.6 There are none.

Community Safety Implications

8.7 There are none.

9. Background documents

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 There are none.

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Dan Kalley, Democratic Services Manager, 01223 457011: email:

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