

AGENDA ITEM 13 – updated

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

17 MAY 2016

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES, COMMITTEE SPOKESPERSONS AND CONSULTEES, MEMBERSHIP OF FORUMS, PARTNERSHIPS, WORKING GROUPS, OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS, APPOINTMENT OF LEAD MEMBERS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Council is to consider and determine the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub Committees in accordance with the political balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended) and receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017.

1.2 The Council is requested to consider and determine the proposals of the political groups for the following whilst taking into consideration the principle that where a large group occupies all but one or two seats on the Council, the first rule prohibiting single party Committees takes precedence, and the Council must make one place available for the other Councillors on each Committee/Sub Committee :-

(a) nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and Sub Committee, including substitutes, for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017 (Appendix A) as well as the group's Committee Spokespersons and Consultees (Appendix Ai);

(b) the positions of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and Sub Committees for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017 (Appendix B);

(c) membership of Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017 (Appendix C);

(d) appointments to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017 (Appendix D);

(e) Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017 (Appendix E).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **To approve the political balance percentages and number of seats allocated to each political group as set out in the table at paragraph 3.3.**

2.2 **To approve the allocation of Councillors to each Committee and Sub Committees as set out at paragraphs 3.4 and 3.8 and the nominations, including substitutes, as submitted by the Political Group Leaders for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017 set out in Appendix A;**

2.3 **To approve the political groups' nominations for Committee spokespersons and consultees (Appendix Ai);**

- 2.4 To approve the proposals of the political groups for the positions of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and for the Sub-Committees for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017 (Appendix B).
- 2.5 To approve the proposals of the political groups for membership of Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017 (Appendix C).
- 2.6 To approve the proposals of the political groups for membership to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017 (Appendix D).
- 2.7 To approve the proposals of the political groups to the positions of Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2017 (Appendix E).
- 2.8 To note that political balance is not required for the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.
- 2.9 To note that in accordance with the political balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended) political balance is to be achieved in total across all the Committees and within all individual Committees requiring political balance and to note also that political balance applies to Sub-Committees as required.
- 2.10 To note the principle that where a large group occupies all but one or two seats on the Council, the first rule prohibiting single party Committees takes precedence, and the Council must make one place available for the other Councillor(s) on each Committee/Sub Committee.

3.0 **KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Sections 15-17 (as amended) explains that the Council is required to allocate seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance of the Council. The Act also states that political balance is required not only across the Committees but also within each Committee and Sub Committee.
- 3.2 Where political balance requirements apply, the Council may vary the requirements by resolution provided that no Member of the Council votes against the resolution.
- 3.3 The following table shows the number of Councillors in a political group, the percentage of representation required within the Council and the allocation of seats over the 6 Committees that require to be politically balanced :-

Group	No. of Councillors	Percentage	Allocation of Seats over 6 Committees
Conservative	25	89.29%	50.90 = 51
Independent	2	7.14%	4.07 = 4
Single Cllr (Labour)	1	3.57%	2.03 = 2
Totals	28	100%	57 seats

- 3.4 The following table shows the allocation of seats in accordance with political balance given the percentages involved :-

2016-17	APP	CSA	GOV	PFA	PLNG	REEA	TOTAL
Conservative	4 (4.46%)	9 (8.92%)	9 (8.92%)	9 (8.92%)	10 (9.82%)	10 (9.82%)	51
Independent	0 (0.36%)	1 (0.71%)	0 (0.71%)	1 (0.71%)	1 (0.79%)	1 (0.79%)	4
Single Cllr (Labour)	1 (0.18%)	0 (0.36%)	1 (0.36%)	0 (0.36%)	0 (0.39%)	0 (0.39%)	2
Totals	5 ✓	10 ✓	10 ✓	10 ✓	11 ✓	11 ✓	57

3.5 Following the by-election held on 5 May 2016, the Labour candidate was elected. As there is only one Labour Councillor on the Council and the legislation requires there to be at least two Councillors to form a group, the Councillor will be referred to as a Single Councillor. The Single Councillor has an allocation of two seats which are those that are not taken up by the other groups in accordance with the political balance calculations. These are seats on Committees that the Independent Group will not be represented on and the table at 3.4 has been updated accordingly.

3.6 The table at paragraph 3.4 shows that the Conservative Group has its full allocation of seats across Committees. However as a departure from the political balance calculations, the Conservative Group has made an arrangement with the Single Councillor (Labour) that he take a Conservative seat on the Planning Committee for one year and then the position be reviewed. This position is shown in Appendix A. For this to be approved and as it is a departure from political balance, no Member can vote against (paragraph 3.2 refers).

3.7 With regard to the Appeals Committee and the Governance Sub Committees shown at paragraph 3.8, the Conservative Group has the highest percentage to take all the seats, however the legislation advises that where a large group occupies all but one or two seats on the Council, the first rule prohibiting single party Committees takes precedence, and the Council must make one place available for the other Councillor(s) on each such Committee or Sub Committee.

3.8 With regard to the Governance Sub Committees 1 and 2, the following table shows the allocation of seats taking into account that the Single Councillor has been allocated a seat on the Governance Committee, this means he also automatically has a seat on the Sub Committees :-

2016-17	Governance Sub Cttees 1 & 2	TOTAL
Conservative	4.46%	4
Independent	0.36%	0
Single Cllr (Labour)	0.18%	1
Totals		5

3.9 The Licensing and Regulatory Committee does not require to be politically balanced and is therefore not included in the above calculations.

3.10 The political groups have nominated Committee spokespersons and consultees and these are set out at Appendix Ai.

3.11 With regard to the politically balanced working groups, the allocation of seats is shown in the table below. The proposals for membership to these seats are set out within Appendix C.

2016-17	Budget & Strategic Planning (6)	Cattle Market (8)	Joint Staff (7)	Melton Local Plan (9)	Sports, Leisure & Culture (9)	Tenant Consultative (6)
Conservative	5 (5.36%)	7 (7.14%)	6 (6.25%)	8 (8.04%)	8 (8.04%)	5 (5.36%)
Independent	1 (0.43%)	1 (0.57%)	1 (0.50%)	1 (0.64%)	1 (0.64%)	1 (0.43%)
Single Cllr (Labour)	0 (0.21%)	0 (0.29%)	0 (0.25%)	0 (0.32%)	0 (0.32%)	0 (0.21%)
Totals	6	8	7	9	9	6

3.12 The appendices give the political groups' proposed membership of Committees and Sub-Committees, the political groups' nominations for Committee spokespersons and consultees, Chairs and Vice Chairs, Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups, appointments to Outside Organisations and Lead Members for 2016/17.

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Political proportionality plays an important role in all the Council's priorities especially in being 'A well run Council'.

5.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial or resource implications in this report.

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 The legislation relating to political balance and associated interpretation is contained within this report as well as reference to the Constitution where required.

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no community safety implications in this report.

8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 An Equalities Screening Assessment has been completed. It is noted that the Council's political arrangements are governed by legislation and this relates to there being political proportionality and fairness in accordance with the wishes of the electorate.

9.0 **RISKS**

9.1

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant				
	D	Low				
	E	Very Low		1		
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Challenge to Council decisions should legislation and political balance not be followed where required

10.0

CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no climate change implications in this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 There has been consultation with the political Group Leaders.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards are affected by this report.

Contact Officer: Senior Democracy Officer
 Date: May 2016
 Appendices : Appendix A - Membership of Committees 2016/17
 Appendix Ai - Committee Spokespersons and Consultees 2016/17
 Appendix B - Committee Chairman & Vice Chairman 2016/17
 Appendix C - Membership of Forums, Partnerships & Working Groups 2016/17
 Appendix D - Representatives on Outside Organisations 2016/17
 Appendix E - Lead Members 2016/17
 Appendix F - Leisure Vision Working Group

Background Papers: Local Government & Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended)

X : Committees\Council Meetings\2016/17 Annual Meeting