

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

16 MAY 2017

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES, COMMITTEE SPOKESPERSONS AND CONSULTEES, ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON WORKING GROUPS, MEMBERSHIP OF FORUMS, PARTNERSHIPS 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 2018.
- 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 :-
 - 1.3 (a) nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and Sub Committee, including substitutes, for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 (Appendix A) as well as the group's Committee Spokespersons and Consultees (Appendix Ai);
 - (b) the positions of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees and Sub Committees for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 (Appendix B);
 - (c) political balance and membership of the Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 (Appendix C);
 - (d) appointments to Forums and Partnerships for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 (Appendix D);
 - (e) appointments to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 (Appendix E);
 - (f) Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 (Appendix F).

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 Committee as set out at paragraphs 3.4 and 3.7 and the nominations,**

including substitutes, as submitted by the Political Group Leader(s) for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 set out in Appendix A;

- 2.3 To approve the political group's nominations for Committee spokespersons and consultees (Appendix Ai);
- 2.4 To approve the proposals of the political group for the positions of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees and for the Sub-Committees for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 (Appendix B);
- 2.5 To approve the allocation of Councillors to each Working Group as set out at paragraphs 3.10 and 3.11 and the nominations as submitted by the Political Group Leader(s) for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 set out in Appendix C;
- 2.6 To approve the proposals of the political group for membership to Forums and Partnerships for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 (Appendix D);
- 2.7 To approve the proposals of the political group for appointments to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 (Appendix E);
- 2.8 To approve the proposals of the political group to the positions of Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2018 (Appendix F);
- 2.9 To note that political balance is not required for the Licensing and Regulatory Committee;
- 2.10 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;
- 2.11 To note that political balance has been applied to the politically balanced working groups in accordance with the legislation outlined at paragraph 2.10;
- 2.12 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 and each politically balanced working group.

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 | 26 | 92.86% | 52.93 = 53 |
| Single Cllr (Ind) | 1 | 3.57% | 2.03 = 2 |
| Single Cllr (Lab) | 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 :-

| 2017-18 | APP | CSA | GOV | PFA | PLNG | REEA | TOTAL |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Conservative | 4 (4.64%) | 9 (9.28%) | 9 (9.28%) | 9 (9.28%) | 10 (10.21%) | 10 (10.21%) | 51 |
| Single Cllr Ind | tbc (0.18%) | tbc (0.36%) | tbc (0.36%) | tbc (0.36%) | tbc (0.39%) | tbc (0.39%) | 3 |
| Single Cllr Lab | tbc (0.18%) | tbc (0.36%) | tbc (0.36%) | tbc (0.36%) | tbc (0.39%) | tbc (0.39%) | 3 |
| Totals | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 57 |

- 3.5 Following the by-elections on the Egerton and Sysonby Wards held on 4 May 2017, 2 Conservative candidates were elected. This means that the Conservatives have increased their majority to 26 Councillors and the remaining 2 Councillors are not aligned to form a group. Therefore they are known as Single Councillors. Each of the Single Councillors has an allocation of 3 seats and they may decide between them who takes which seat. If the individuals cannot agree, the Council may allocate the seats.
- 3.6 The table at paragraph 3.4 shows that the Conservative Group has not taken up its full allocation of 53 seats across Committees as the rule of not having single party Committees and Sub Committees applies, therefore even though the Conservative Group could take up 2 more Committee seats and all the Sub Committee seats, to comply with the legislation they must release a seat on each Committee and Sub Committee.
- 3.7 With regard to the Sub Committees, the following table shows the allocation of seats. It should be taken into account when determining the Single Councillor allocation to the Sub Committees that the Single Councillor who takes the parent Committee seat will automatically take the seat on the relevant Sub Committee.

| 2017-18 | Governance Sub Cttees 1 & 2 | PFA Sub Cttee |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| Conservative | 4 (4.64%) | 6 (6.50%) |
| Single Cllr Ind | tbc (0.18%) | tbc (0.25%) |
| Single Cllr Lab | tbc (0.18%) | tbc (0.25%) |
| Totals | 5 | 7 |

- 3.8 The Licensing and Regulatory Committee does not require to be politically balanced and is therefore not included in the above calculations.
- 3.9 The political group(s) have nominated Committee spokespersons and consultees and these are set out at Appendix Ai.
- 3.10 With regard to the politically balanced working groups, 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 7 politically balanced working groups :-

| Group | No. of Councillors | Percentage | Allocation of Seats over 7 Working Groups |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Conservative | 26 | 92.86% | 48.28 = 48 |
| Single Cllr Ind | 1 | 3.57% | 1.86 = 2 |
| Single Cllr Lab | 1 | 3.57% | 1.86 = 2 |
| Totals | 28 | 100% | 52 seats |

- 3.11 The following table shows the allocation of seats on the working groups in accordance with political balance given the percentages involved :-

| Working Groups 2017 18 | Budget & Strategic Planning (6) | Cattle Market (8) | Economy Board (7) | Joint Staff (7) | Melton Local Plan (9) | Sports, Leisure & Culture (9) | Tenant Consultative (6) | Total |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Conservative | 5 (5.57%) | 7 (7.42%) | 6 (6.50%) | 6 (6.50%) | 8 (8.36%) | 8 (8.36%) | 5 (5.57%) | 45 |
| Single Cllr Ind | tbc (0.21%) | tbc (0.29%) | tbc (0.25%) | tbc (0.25%) | tbc (0.32%) | tbc (0.32%) | tbc (0.21%) | 3/4 |
| Single Cllr Lab | tbc (0.21%) | tbc (0.29%) | tbc (0.25%) | tbc (0.25%) | tbc (0.32%) | tbc (0.32%) | tbc (0.21%) | 3/4 |
| Totals | 6 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 52 |

- 3.12 The rule of not having single party Committees and Sub Committees also applies to working groups, therefore even though the Conservative Group could take up 3 more seats, to comply with the legislation they must release a seat on each working group. As there are 7 working groups, this means that one of the Single Councillors will take up 4 seats and the other 3 seats. As with the Committee seats allocation, the Single Councillors will be given the opportunity to decide how the seats are allocated and should agreement not be reached, the Council will allocate the seats.
- 3.13 The appendices give the political group(s) proposed membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups, the political group(s) nominations for Committee spokespersons and consultees, Chairs and Vice Chairs, Forums, Partnerships, appointments to Outside Organisations and Lead Members for 2017/18.

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 Leader and other Councillors involved.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards are indirectly affected by this report.

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| Contact Officer | Senior Democracy Officer |
| Date: | May 2017 |
| Appendices : | Appendix A - Membership of Committees & Sub Committees & Substitutes 2017/18 Appendix Ai - Committee Spokespersons and Consultees 2017/18 Appendix B - Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs 2017/18 Appendix C - Membership Working Groups 2017/18 Appendix D - Forums & Partnerships Appendix E - Outside Organisations 2017/18 Appendix F - Lead Members 2017/18 |
| Background Papers: | Local Government & Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended) |
| Reference : | X : Committees\Council Meetings\2017 18 Annual Meeting |