

ANNUAL COUNCIL

14th May 2014

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2014-15 AND UPDATE OF PART 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor R Hollingworth
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Members are asked to approve the appointment and composition of the Council's Boards and Committees for the 2014 - 15 Municipal Year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the updated Part 3 (Part C) of the Council Constitution at Appendix 1 to the report, showing the Allocation of Responsibilities to Committees, be approved;
- 2.2 That for the ensuing Municipal Year, the Committees set out in the table in Appendix 2 of the report be appointed and that the representation of the different political groups on the Council on those Committees be as set out in that table until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or until the next review of political representation under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, whichever is the earlier.
- 2.3 That Members be appointed to the Committees in accordance with nominations to be made by Group Leaders.
- 2.4 That a Working Group consisting of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and Leaders of the Labour and Independent Alliance political groups, be established to review the Council's constitution and bring forward recommendations to future meetings of the Council;
- 2.5 That the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services be authorised to make any consequential changes to the Council's Constitution arising from this report.

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 Sections 15 -17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a duty on Councils to allocate the seats on certain committees in proportion to the size of the political groups on the Council.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 The Council is required by law and/or its own Constitution to appoint various Boards and Committees and to agree the allocation of seats which are subject to the rules of political proportionality.
- 3.4 The rules of political proportionality mean that the political balance of the Council needs to be reflected in the political composition of individual Boards and Committees. In addition, the total number of seats allocated to each group must reflect the political balance of the Council.
- 3.5 Councillors may recall that the political balance was recently reviewed as a result of changes to the size of political groups. This was reported to the Council meeting on 16th April.
- 3.6 During informal discussions with political group leaders associated with this, it was suggested that the Council could remove the Appeals Panel from the list of bodies which are appointed annually. This meets infrequently and is small in size. This report recommends that the Panel is appointed as necessary, to enable the appropriate members to be selected according to the nature of the appeal. The requirement for members to be appropriately trained will remain. It is not proposed to change the provision in the current Members Allowance scheme where the Chairman of the Panel is entitled to a Special Responsibility allowance on a per meeting basis.
- 3.7 The terms of reference of the Panel have been amended accordingly as part of a review and update of the relevant chapter of the Constitution. Details are enclosed at Appendix 1 for the Council's approval.
- 3.8 As a result of discussion leading to the proposed removal of the Panel from the annual political balance calculation, a slight change to the size of the Electoral Matters Committee is proposed. A reduction in size from 10 to 9 members is considered appropriate.

3.9 The proposed proportional allocation of seats to Boards and Committees for 2014-15 is set out in Appendix 2. This reflects the proposed changes in paragraphs 3.3 – 3.8 above. The proposed allocation of seats on each Board/Committee has been done on a strict mathematical basis as shown in Appendix 2. The figures in bold in each column are the number of seats it is proposed should be allocated to each group. The figures in brackets are the mathematical calculations.

3.10 Finally, this report proposes that a small cross party working group is established to review the Council's constitution as a whole. The aim of the Group will be to:

- simplify the document so that it is more "user friendly";
- remove duplication;
- prepare the document so that it supports the effective running of the Council following the elections in 2015.

The membership of the Group is proposed to be the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the Labour and Independent Alliance political groups. They will make recommendations to the Council as appropriate during the year.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.7 No implications have been identified.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 There are no significant risks associated with this item.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Part 3 (Part C) of the Council Constitution, Allocation of Responsibilities to Committees.

Appendix 2 Proposed Committees & allocation of Committee Places 2014-15

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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