

COUNCIL

11 December 2017

APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

Report of the Senior Specialist (Elections and Democratic)

Recommendations

It is recommended that

- (1) That consideration be given to the allocation of seats on committees to the political groups; and
 - (2) That the political groups make nominations to fill the seats.
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Purpose

Following the resignation of three of the elected members from the Liberal Democrat Group, and their formation of a new political group, it has been necessary to review the membership of committees and related proportionality issues.

Statutory Powers

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Strategic Implications

1. This report relates to statutory requirements for proportionality in the way the council is governed to lead and support Eastleigh Borough and its communities.

Introduction

2. In July 2017 Councillors Bain and S Sollitt advised that they had resigned from the Liberal Democrat Group. They formed, and joined, a new group called the Independent Liberal Democrat Group. In November 2017 Councillor Balaam also resigned from the Liberal Democrat Group and joined the Liberal Democrat Independent Group. The Council is required to review the representation of the political groups on committees as there has been a change to its composition.

The political composition of the Council is now:

Liberal Democrats 35
 Conservatives 6
 Independent Group 3

Proportionality

3. Under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the Act”) the Council has a duty to determine the allocation of seats to political groups. A Political Group is defined as being constituted by at least two Members who have advised the proper officer of the local authority in writing that they wish to be treated as a political group.
4. The Act requires:
 - (a) that not all the seats are allocated to the same group;
 - (b) that the majority of seats are allocated to the group which has the majority on the Council;
 - (c) that, subject to (a) and (b) above, the total number of seats allocated to each political group across all the ordinary committees must reflect each group’s proportion of the authority’s membership;
 - (d) that, subject to (a) and (c) above, the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group’s membership of the authority.
5. It is suggested therefore that the allocation of seats is as follows:

			LD		Con		Ind		
Policy & Performance Scrutiny and Scrutiny	10	10	8	80%	2	20%		0%	0%
Audit and Resources Committee	8	8	6	75%	1	13%	1	13%	0%
Licensing	15	15	13	87%	2	13%		0%	0%
Admin Committee	10	10	8	80%	1	10%	1	10%	0%
Staff & Job Evaluation Appeals Panel	4	4	4	100%		0%		0%	0%
Horton Heath Dev Man Committee	7	7	7	100%		0%		0%	0%
Places Leisure Consultative Group	7	7	4	57%	1	14%	2	29%	0%
Treasury Management Members Review Group	4	4	3	75%	1	25%		0%	0%
TOTAL BY PARTY exc. Council and LACs	65	65	53	81.54%	8	12.31%	4	6.15%	0.00%

6. Members are asked to give consideration to the nomination of places to these Committees. The seats that the new Independent Group has been allocated are the same ones which they members on before they formed the new group. The current membership is shown in Appendix A.

Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Risk Assessment

8. The Council has a statutory duty to review representation of different political groups following a change in the political groups.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

Conclusion

10. Council is asked to consider various issues relating to the appointment of members to Committees.

NATALIE WIGMAN
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (STRATEGY)

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Appendices Attached: 1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None.

Appendix A

AUDIT & RESOURCES COMMITTEE	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	LICENSING COMMITTEE
M Atkinson M Balaam S Holes W Irish R Rushton B Tennent C Thomas L Van Niekerk	D Airey D Clarke I Corben J Grajewski K House W Irish D Pretty M Sollitt S Sollitt A Winstanley	D Airey M Allingham P Bicknell H Broadhurst T Craig C Garton P Holden-Brown M Hughes W Irish E Lear D Mann V Parkinson D Pretty D Scott A Winstanley
POLICY & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL	STAFF & JOB EVALUATION APPEALS PANEL	PLACES LEISURE CONSULTATIVE
H Broadhurst I Corben M Cross C Garton D Hatfield P Holden-Brown E Lear T Mignot V Parkinson D Pragnell	D Airey T Craig K House A Winstanley	M Balaam A Broadhurst J Hall W Irish D Pragnell D Pretty S Sollitt
Treasury Management Members Review Group		
J Grajewski K House D Pretty A Winstanley		