

SUBJECT	Establishment of Committees, Allocation of Seats to Political Groups and Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and Informal Meetings
REPORT OF	Bob Smith, Chief Executive
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Joanna Swift, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
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WARD/S AFFECTED	Not ward specific

1. Purpose of Report

Annual Council is the first meeting of the Municipal Year and is held to enable the Council to establish Committees and allocate seats in accordance with political balance.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **To agree the establishment of the Committees listed in Section 3 of this report.**
2. **That the Council's political balance be noted.**
3. **To agree the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Policy Advisory Groups, and note appointments to working and information groups as shown on Appendix (to follow).**
4. **To agree the appointment of Councillors to Outside Bodies relating to Council functions as shown on Appendix (to follow), and that authority to make changes to appointments during the Municipal Year 2019-20 be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.**

2. Reasons for Recommendations

The Council is required to establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and regulatory and other Committees for the Municipal Year. Seats on those Committees must be allocated in accordance with the political balance rules. The Council must then make appointments to those Committees in accordance with the Constitution.

3. Establishment of Committees

The Council is asked to establish the following Committees:

Committee	Number of Members
Overview & Scrutiny	8
Audit & Standards	6
Governance & Electoral Arrangements	6
Licensing	10
Planning	10
Joint Staffing	6, plus 6 Chiltern District Council Members
Joint Overview & Scrutiny	5, plus 5 Chiltern District Council Members

4. Political Balance

4.1. The Council comprises of the following political group:

Conservatives – 23 seats

There are currently 5 independent ungrouped members. The minimum number of members required to form a political group is 2.

Denham Conservative – 1

Denham Conservative – 1

Independent – 1

Independent – 1

Taplow Conservative – 1

4.2. In accordance with the rules relating to political balance, seats on committees which are allocated to a political group must bear the same proportion to the total number of all the seats on those committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the total membership of the Council. The Conservative Group is therefore entitled to 23/28ths (82.14%) of the seats available. With regard to the Independent ungrouped members elected to the Council, under the rules relating to political balance they are not entitled to seats on Committees/ Groups, not being part of a Political Group comprising at least two members. The Conservative Majority Group may gift one or more of their allocated seats to independent ungrouped members.

The following table shows the current allocation of seats and political balance:

		Conservative			5 Independent ungrouped members (No entitlement to seats on Committees)			Unallocated seats
28								
		Seats		23	Seats		0	
		%		82.14%	%		0.00%	
Committees	Seats	Proposed	Entitled	Round	Proposed	Entitled	Round	
Audit and Standards	6	5	4.93	5	1	0.00	0	Griffin
Governance and Electoral Arrangements	6	6	4.93	5	0	0.00	0	
Licensing	10	8	8.21	8	2	0.00	0	Griffin, Sandy
Overview and Scrutiny	8	7	6.57	7	1	0.00	0	Bezzant
Planning	10	9	8.21	8	1	0.00	0	Bezzant
Joint Overview and Scrutiny	5	4	4.11	4	1	0.00	0	Bezzant
Joint Staffing	6	5	4.93	5	1	0.00	0	Harding
TOTALS	51	44	41.89	42	7	0.00	0	0

		Conservative			5 Independent ungrouped members (No entitlement to seats on PAGs)			Unallocated seats
				82.14%				
Policy Advisory Groups	Max Seats	Proposed	Entitled	Round	Proposed	Entitled	Round	
Customer Services & Business Support	6	3	4.93	5	1	0	0	Bezzant
Environment	6	5	4.93	5	1	0	0	Harding
Healthy Communities	6	5	4.93	5	1	0	0	Bezzant
Planning & Economic Development	6	4	4.93	5	1	0	0	Sandy
Resources	6	6	4.93	5	0	0	0	
TOTALS	30	23	24.65	25	4	0.00	0	3

	Total Seats	Conservative Seats Proposed	Independent Ungrouped Proposed	Unallocated seats
TOTALS	81	67	12	3

5. Appointment of Councillors to Serve on each Committee

The Council is asked to agree the nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and PAGs as shown on Appendix 1 (to follow). Nominations to fill seat numbers on a number of other Committees/bodies, several of which are filled by virtue of office held or ward represented, and representation on internal working and information groups are also included for information.

Appointments to Joint Executive Committees will be made by the Cabinet meeting on 27 June.

The Council's Constitution allows the Chief Executive to determine after consultation with Group Leaders the political balance when there is change in political composition during the term of the Council. Subsequent changes may also be made to appointments to Committees during the Municipal Year to reflect the wishes of the respective political group.

Meetings of every Committee will take place immediately after Annual Council for the purpose of making appointments to Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

6. Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Council is asked to agree the nominations of Councillors to serve on Outside Bodies as shown on Appendix (to follow). The appointment of Councillors to serve on Outside Bodies relating to a Cabinet function will be agreed by the Cabinet at the meeting on 27 June. The Council does not need to agree appointments to those Outside Bodies that have been delegated by the Council to the Cabinet, Committee or an officer.

7. Corporate Implications

7.1 Financial

The recommendations in this report have no direct financial implications and can be met within existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

The Council is required to establish Committees and agree appointments to Committees, outside bodies and informal meetings.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Ensuring representation on the Council's Committees, outside bodies and informal meetings supports the delivery of the Council's key objectives.

9. Next Steps

The appointments to Committees, outside bodies and other informal meetings, once agreed, will be published on the Council's website. Outside bodies will be contacted and provided with the contact details of the respective Councillors so that details of forthcoming meetings can be supplied.

Background Papers:	None other than those referred to in the report.
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