

AGENDA ITEM NO.11

COUNCIL

Date **10 MAY 2012**

Title **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

1. PURPOSE/SUMMARY

Council is asked to define the committees and panels to be established for the municipal year and to allocate the seats and positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman to Political Groups.

2. KEY ISSUES

- To define the Committees and Panels to be constituted for the municipal year 2012 / 2013.
- To allocate seats and positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman on the committees and panels in accordance with the political proportionality rules.
- To make the relevant appointments of non Fenland District Council members to the Standards Committee, as it is a current statutory committee it is expected that this will be disbanded during the course of the municipal year following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011.

3. RECOMMENDATION(S)

To adopt the schedule of appointments and political allocations set out in Table 1.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable)	4/April 2012
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Melton – Leader
Report Originator	Ian Hunt – Chief Solicitor
Contact Officer(s)	Ian Hunt – Chief Solicitor Alan Pain – Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer
Background Paper(s)	Constitution

1. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

For each Municipal year Council has to set out the Committees and Panels which are to be established. On establishing the Committees and Panels in accordance with the rules relating to Political Proportionality the seats on each committee and panel together with the position of Chairman and Vice Chairman to be allocated to Political Parties.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

The rules relating to political proportionality in relation to membership of committees are set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the supporting regulations.

For the purposes of the regulations a political group must consist of two or more members who have signed a declaration to that effect. Where one or more groups exist the relative proportions of the groups should be used in allocating seats on committees.

The current distribution of the 40 current members of the Council within the group structures is:

Conservative	34	87%
Lib Dem Alliance	3	8%
Truly Independent	2	5%
Unaligned	1	

It should be noted that political groups can appoint members who are not aligned to a political group, or indeed aligned to another group to seats allocated to them under the political proportionality rules.

3. COMMITTEES AND PANELS

Cabinet is exempt from the requirements of political proportionality, and its membership is determined by the Leader of the Council in accordance with Article 7.

The following Table sets out the standing committees of the Council and the allocation of the seats to political groups.

Although the Standards Committee is included as it is a current statutory committee it is expected that this will be disbanded during the course of the municipal year following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011.

Table 1

Committee	Membership	Political Apportionment
Overview and Scrutiny	Up to 11 members of the Council (none of which may be part of the Cabinet) Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	9 to Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group 1 to Truly Independent Group To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group
Planning Committee	Up to 15 members of the Council. No more than three of which can be members of the Cabinet. Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman Vice Chairman	13 to Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group 1 to Truly Independent Group To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group
Licensing Committee	Up to 12 members of the Council. Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	10 to the Conservative Group 1 to Liberal Dem Alliance Group 1 to Truly Independent Group To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group
Staff Committee	8 members of the Council to be formed from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 members of Cabinet, one of which is to be the portfolio holder with responsibility for Finance. • 3 members of any Overview and Scrutiny panel • 2 Backbench members Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	7 to the Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group
Appointments Panel	Up to 7 members and not less than 3 Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	6 to the Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group

Committee	Membership	Political Apportionment
<p>Corporate Governance Committee</p>	<p>Up to 9 members of the Council to be formed from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 3 members of Cabinet not including the portfolio holder responsible for finance • Up to 3 members drawn from any Overview and Scrutiny panel • 3 Backbench members <p>Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman</p>	<p>8 to Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group</p> <p>To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group</p>
<p>Standards Committee (Subject to expected abolition during municipal year)</p>	<p>Up to 5 members of the Council</p> <p>5 voting independent appointees (one to be appointed Chairman, and one Vice Chairman by the committee)</p> <p>2 voting members appointed from town and parish councils in Fenland</p>	<p>5 to the Conservative Group</p> <p>Mr N De Prochnow Mrs Nichols Mr G Osbourn Mr R Symonds [One Vacancy]</p> <p>Councillor B Payne [One Vacancy]</p>