


Agenda Item No:	12	
Committee:	COUNCIL	
Date:	8 MAY 2014	
Report 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 the Chairman and Vice Chairman to Political groups

2 Key issues

- To define the Committees and panels to be constituted for the municipal year 2014/2015.
- To allocate seats and positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman on the committees and panels in accordance with the political proportionality rules.

3 Recommendations

- To adopt the schedule of appointments and political allocations set out in the appendix

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	NA
Portfolio Holder(s)	Leader of the Council
Report Originator(s)	Tom Lewis- Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer(s)	Tom Lewis - Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer Alan Pain - Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer
Background Paper(s)	Constitution

4 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 allocated to Political Parties.

5 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 that effect.

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

The distribution of the 39 current members (with 1 seat vacant of the total of 40 seats) of the Council within the group structures is:

Conservative	33	87%
Lib Dem Alliance	3	8%
Truly Independent	2	5%
Unaligned (including 1 vacant seat)	2	

One seat at Roman Bank is currently vacant and one member is not part of any political grouping and is therefore regarded as unaligned for the purposes of this calculation , however the number of seats on any given committee has not been changed by this situation.

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.

6 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 Table laid out in the appendix to this report sets out the standing committees of the Council and the allocation of the seats to political group.

Appendix

COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP	POLITICAL APPORTIONMENT
Overview and Scrutiny	Up to 11 members of the Council (none of which may be part of the Cabinet)	9 to Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group 1 to Truly Independent Group
	Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	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.	13 to Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group 1 to Truly Independent Group
	Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman Vice Chairman	To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group
Licensing Committee	Up to 12 members of the Council.	10 to the Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group 1 to Truly Independent Group
	Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group
Staff Committee	8 members of the Council to be formed from: 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	7 to the Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group
	Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group
Appointments Panel	Up to 7 members and not less than 3	6 to the Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group
	Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group

COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP	POLITICAL APPORTIONMENT
Corporate Governance Committee	Up to 9 members of the Council to be formed from: 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	8 to Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group
	Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group
Conduct Committee	Up to 5 Members of the Council	5 to Conservative Group
	Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group
	The Committee may also appoint itself up to two members of Town or Parish Councils to assist its work.	Currently: Councillors Mason and Russell
	Independent Person: Deputy Independent Person:	Anne Hay Claire Hawden-Beale