

Committee: Council

Date: 10 July 2019

Subject: Review of proportionality and changes to Membership of Committees

Lead officer: Ged Curran, Chief Executive

Contact officer: Louise Fleming, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Recommendations:

That the Council:

1. Approves the allocation of seats to political groups as set out at Appendix A
 2. Approves the appointment of nominations to those seats as set out in Appendix B and paragraph 2.2 below.
 3. Notes the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Council.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Council has a statutory duty to review the representations of different political groups on the Council in order to ensure that a political balance is secured on council committees so as to reflect the overall political composition of the council. This review must take place whenever there is a change to the political composition of the Council.
- 1.2. This report also asks Council to note the changes made to committee memberships under delegated authority since the publication of the agenda for the last ordinary Council meeting on 3 April 2019

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 Following the resignation of former Councillor Mark Kenny, a by-election was held on 20 June 2019 in the Cannon Hill ward. Following the by-election, officers have carried out a review of proportionality and the allocation of seats to committees has been recalculated to reflect the change in the political composition of the Council and is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2 The Liberal Democrat group has suggested nominations for seats to be allocated as attached at Appendix B and are detailed below:
 - Councillor Jenifer Gould be nominated to sit on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel, with Councillor Hina Bokhari as substitute; and
 - Councillor Jenifer Gould replace Councillor Paul Kohler as substitute on the Standards and General Purposes Committee.

The nominations must be either ratified or amended by Council.

- 2.1. The following membership changes have been made by the Chief Executive under his delegated authority in accordance with section 1.4 of part 3F of the Constitution:

Committee	Member resigning	Replaced by	Date
NE Surrey Crematorium Board	David Simpson	Nick McLean	3 June 2019
School Standards Panel	n/a (vacancy)	Dave Ward	12 June 2019
Planning Applications Committee	Dave Ward	Dennis Pearce	19 June 2019

2.4 The appointments to Committees and other bodies, including the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of those committees and other bodies, were agreed at the annual meeting of the Council on 15 May 2019.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

4 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The information regarding membership changes in this report complies with legal and statutory requirements. Council is required to accept nominations made by political groups.
- 5.2. The Housing and Local Government Act 1989 contains provisions relating to the political balance on committees, the duty to allocate seats to political groups and the duty to give effect to allocations.
- 5.3. The Council has a statutory duty to review the representations of different political groups on the Council in order to ensure that a political balance is secured on council committees so as to reflect the overall political composition of the council.
- 5.4. The requirement to allocate seats must be made in accordance with the following statutory principles:
 - a) All of the seats are not to be allocated to the same political group.
 - b) The majority of the seats must be allocated to the political group with a majority on the Council.
 - c) Subject to the two principles listed above, the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees of the Council allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to that on full Council.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1. N/A

9 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

9.1 Appendix A – Allocation of committee places to political groups

9.2 Appendix B – Nominations to committee places

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Documents from the authorised officer confirming approval of the membership changes agreed under delegated authority.

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