



ANNUAL COUNCIL: 18 May 2022

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**Report of:** Chief Operating Officer

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**SUBJECT:** APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES etc 2022/23

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Borough wide interest

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To consider the appointment of Committees etc and their terms of reference and the allocation of seats thereon to the political groups for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That, for the period ending with the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or such lesser period should the political balance or allocation to political groups change during the year requiring a review under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Committees, Sub-Committees etc be appointed as detailed in the attached Appendix and that the allocation of seats to the political groups be as indicated.
- 2.2 That the representatives of the political groups on the Committees etc now appointed shall be as indicated on the attached Appendix (Constitution 4.1A) and the appointment of the Independent Persons & the 2 Parish Council Representatives on the Standards Committee, be as detailed in the appendix.
- 2.3 That the representatives of the political groups on Outside Bodies (Council appointments) be as indicated on the attached Appendix 2.
- 2.3 That the terms of reference for the Committees etc now appointed be agreed as set out in the Constitution.
- 2.4 That it be noted that the Leader has appointed Cabinet Working Groups as indicated on Appendix 1 to the report, with the terms of reference included in the Constitution and appointed representatives to Outside Bodies (Cabinet appointments).
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### **3.0 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES etc**

- 3.1 At its Annual Meeting, the Council is under an obligation, under Section 15(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to review the representation of the Political Groups on Committees and Sub-Committees. Under the Act, the numbers of seats on ordinary Committees have to be aggregated and allocated to the proportion that each political group bears to the total members of the Council, in so far as reasonably practicable. The current elected membership of the Council is 54. The Labour Group has 25 members – 46.3% of the total membership, the Conservative Group has 20 members – 37.04% of the total membership, ‘Our West Lancashire’ has 7 members (12.96%) of the total membership and 2 Independent members (3.7%) of the total membership, which does not constitute a Political Group.
- 3.2 Of the seats available in Committees, these will be allocated to the Labour Group, the Conservative Group and Our West Lancashire, in line with the above. The allocation of remaining seats not allocated to any Political Group will fall to be made by the Council in its discretion. The regulations provide that the Council must only appoint from Members who belong to no Political Group. The remaining seats must therefore be allocated to an Independent Member that does not belong to a Political Group.
- 3.3 There is no legal requirement under the 1989 Act to aggregate the number of seats on ordinary sub-committees. The Act simply requires the seats on such sub-committees to be allocated to the political groups in the same proportion as each group bears to the whole Council. Political balance rules do not apply to Working Groups or Commissions.
- 3.4 The entitlement to seats under the Council's Political Management Structure is set out in the attached Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The Terms of Reference for each of the Committees etc are set out in the Council's Constitution 4.1: Responsibility for Functions.
- 3.6 The Council appointments to Outside Bodies are attached at Appendix 2 for approval.

### **4.0 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS etc**

- 4.1 It is for the Leader to appoint Cabinet Committees, Working Groups and Cabinet appointments to Outside Bodies, to assist it in its work and details of the same are included on Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 for noting.

### **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

### **6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this report.

## **7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 Reviewing the political balance on committees ensures that the Council is complying with its obligation, under Section 15(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

## **8.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.
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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

1. Constitution 4.1A 'Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, etc. (See item 7) – To follow
2. Constitution 4.1C 'Appointments to Outside Bodies' – To follow