



ANNUAL COUNCIL: 15 MAY 2024

Report of: Chief Executive

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SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES etc 2024/25

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 2024/25.

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 1 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 terms of reference for the Committees etc now appointed be agreed as set out in Constitution Part 2 – Responsibility for Functions, as agreed at Council in February 2024.
- 2.4 That it be noted that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, will appoint representatives to Outside Bodies, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

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 45. The Labour Group has 26 members – 58% of the total membership, the Conservative Group has 14 members – 31% of the total membership, 'Our West Lancashire' has 5 members (11%) of the total membership.

- 3.2 Of the seats available in Committees, these will be allocated to the Labour Group, the Conservative Group and the Our West Lancashire Group, in line with the above.
- 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, however it is understood that seats on such Working Groups will be allocated to the political groups in the same proportion as each group bears to the whole Council.
- 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 Part 2 – Responsibility for Functions.

4.0 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- 4.1 The Council in May 2005 resolved that the Chief Executive be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to make appointments to outside bodies.

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.

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. Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, etc. To follow
2. Constitution Part 2: Responsibility for Functions [Constitution - West Lancashire Borough Council \(westlancs.gov.uk\)](https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/constitution)
3. Appointments to Outside Bodies (To follow)