

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY PANELS; ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY PANELS; APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY PANELS; APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN

<u>Report of the:</u>	Chief Executive
<u>Contact:</u>	Frances Rutter
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	Schedule of Nominations to committees
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended) Council Agenda dated 19 April 2016

REPORT SUMMARY

In accordance with the relevant legislation, this report seeks the approval of the allocation of seats on Committees and Advisory Panels; the appointments to Committees and Advisory Panels and the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

The Council is requested to:

- (1) Approve the final recommended allocation of seats or such other allocation as is considered appropriate;
- (2) Allocate seats on the Committees and Advisory Panels in accordance with the wishes of the political groups set out in the Annexe to this report;
- (3) Appoint the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen in light of the nominations received set out in the Annexe to this report.

Notes

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 There are no direct implications for the above matters arising from this report.

2 Background

- 2.1 Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires the allocation of seats on committees, advisory panels and certain other bodies to reflect the political make-up of the authority.
- 2.2 In performing this duty the authority must make only such determinations as give effect, **so far as reasonably practicable**, to the following principles:
- 2.2.1 That not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
- 2.2.2 That the majority of seats on the body is allocated to the group which is a majority of the authority's membership;
- 2.2.3 Subject to paragraphs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of the authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority;
- 2.2.4 Subject to paragraphs 2.2.1 and 2.2.3 that the number of seats on the specific body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.
- 2.3 There are 38 members of the Council and 62 seats in total on all of the Council's ordinary committees. Consequently, the number of seats each group should be allocated is as follows:

Residents' Association	31 of 38 = 0.816×62	50.592 (round to 50 or 51)
Conservative	4 of 38 = 0.105×62	6.526 (round to 6 or 7)
Labour	3 of 38 = 0.079×62	4.898 (round to 4 or 5)

3 Allocation of seats on Ordinary Committees

- 3.1 Following the decision of Council on 19 April 2016, the seats available are as follows:

Ordinary Committees	Total Seats
Planning	13
Planning and Licensing Policy	10
Strategy and Resources	10

Ordinary Committees	Total Seats
Environment	10
Community and Wellbeing	10
Standards	9
	62

3.2 Accordingly, taking into account the principles set out in paragraph 2.2 above, this has resulted in the following recommended allocation of seats:

	Total Seats	RA	Con	Lab
Planning	13	11	1	1
Planning and Licensing Policy	10	8	1	1
Strategy and Resources	10	8	1	1
Environment	10	8	1	1
Community and Wellbeing	10	8	1	1
Standards	9	7	1	1
		50	6	6

3.3 As was the case in 2015/16, the allocation above results in a seating allocation which does not give best effect to the principle set out at paragraph 2.2.3 as it gives the Labour Group one more seat than its overall entitlement. It is considered “reasonably practicable” adjustments could be made to the allocation to result in an allocation which more closely gives effect to this principle and, in pure percentage terms, it is suggested that the Labour Group does not have a seat on the Standards Committee

4 Allocation of seats on other committees and panels

4.1 The principles at 2.2.1, 2.2.2 & 2.2.4 apply to allocation of seats on other committees and panels, and the suggested composition (based on the current allocation) is as follows:

Other Committees & Panels				
	Total Seats	RA	Con	Lab
Audit Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee	10	8	1	1
Financial Policy Panel	8	6	1	1
Health Liaison Panel	7	6	1	0
Human Resources Panel	6	5	1	0
Licensing Hearings Panel	13	11	1	1

Other Committees & Panels				
	Total Seats	RA	Con	Lab
Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee	3	2	1	0
Surrey First	1	1	0	0
Surrey Police and Crime Panel	1	1	0	0

5 Individual Membership of Committees and Appointment of Chairmen and Vice- Chairmen

5.1 Once the Council has approved the manner of constituting the main Committees, then, in accordance with the 1989 Act and Standing Orders, it is necessary to make appointments on each Committee so as to give effect to the wishes of the relevant groups.

5.2 The final wishes of the Groups are set out in the Annexe to this report.

5.3 After the composition of each committee has been agreed, the Council will need to appoint the Chairman and Vice Chairman from amongst the committee's membership and the majority group nominations are also set out in the Annexe to this report.

6 Financial and Manpower Implications

6.1 There are no financial and manpower implications arising directly from this report.

7 Equalities and Other Legal Implications

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report and the relevant legal issues have been considered in the body of the report.

8 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications; Partnerships

8.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

9 Risk Assessment

9.1 Provided the Council allocates seats on committees, so far as reasonably practicable in accordance with the requirements of the 1989 Act, there are no significant risks arising from the report.

10 Conclusion and Recommendations

10.1 It is recommended that committees and panels be appointed as set out above, and seats on committees be allocated, and appointed, in accordance with the relevant legislation.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: N/A