

Subject: Appointments to the Cabinet, Committees and Outside Bodies and Approval of the Committee Schedule for 2007/08

Status: For Publication

Report to: Annual Council

Date: 18th May 2007

Report of: Chief Executive

Portfolio

Holder: Leader of the Council

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To gain approval from the Council to the appointment of the Cabinet, Committees and representatives on outside bodies for the coming municipal year together with seeking approval of the amendments to the public meetings schedule for 2007/08.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report have an impact across the full range of the Council's activities and priorities.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendations in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

If appointments are not made to Committees then there is a risk that the Council will not be able to effectively conduct its business over the coming months. In addition if appointments are not made to outside bodies there is a risk that the Council's views will not be represented in the debates undertaken within those bodies.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 At each annual meeting the Council is required to make a range of appointments for the coming municipal year together with approving the meetings schedule for the year. This report sets out the number of appointments which need to be made following the recent elections.
- 4.2 There are strict rules on political balance or proportionality which apply to appointments to decision making bodies of the Council, although not to Area Fora. The first page of Appendix 1 illustrates how the proposals made reflect the political balance of the Council following the elections.
- 4.3 Political balance does not apply to the Cabinet which may be either single or multi party. The proposals for the Cabinet will be tabled at the meeting. Appendix 2 sets out the composition of the Cabinet and it is noted that the Leader and Deputy Leader and up to 6 Members can be appointed to the Cabinet.
- 4.4 The proposals of the Council's various political groups for appointments to the Council's Committees will be tabled at the meeting. Appendix 3 sets out the appointments required.
- 4.4 There are a number of internal member working groups to which political balance does not apply and the constitutional status of these groups has been clarified through the preparation of Terms of Reference which are detailed within a separate report to Council this evening. Consultation with the political leaderships results in a proposed standardisation of the size and balance of such groups which is broadly proportionate.
- 4.5 There are a number of Member Champion roles which have developed over time and it is proposed that the relevant Portfolio Holder assumes the roles of the Member e-Champion and the Member Health and Safety Champion and that the relevant role descriptions be updated accordingly.
- 4.6 The appointments to outside bodies proposals (Appendix 4) will be tabled at the meeting following receipt of the nominations from the political groups.
- 4.7 Under the Council Procedure Rules, the annual meeting of the Council will approve a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year. Members are reminded that the annual meetings schedule was agreed at the last meeting of Council. Since that date minor amendments have been suggested for Members' to consider.

21st June O&S Management Committee – delete
24th May O&S Management Committee – add

4th September Development Control - delete
21st September Development Control – add

The proposed schedule is attached at Appendix 5 for consideration. In considering the annual meetings schedule Members are also requested to consider the start time of Committee Meetings. A proposal is to commence meetings at 6.00pm with the exception of Full Council and Area Forum meetings.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

6.1 There are no specific legal implications identified as arising from this report, other than the need to make certain appointments in line with the political balance rules.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1 There are no specific human resources implications for the Council arising from this report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 It is important that appointments to Committees are made to ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Council approve the appointments proposed by the various political groups set out in the following appendices:

- a) Appendix 1 – Political balance calculation
- b) Appendix 2 – Composition of the Cabinet;
- c) Appendix 3 – The Committees of the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees, including Chairs and Vice-Chairs
- d) Appendix 4 - Representatives on outside bodies

9.2 That the relevant Portfolio holder assumes responsibility for Health and Safety and Information and Communication Technology issues and that the relevant role descriptions be updated accordingly.

9.3 That the annual public meetings schedule set out in Appendix 5 be approved and that the start times of meetings as set out in the report be approved.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Political Groups.

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No background papers