

Subject: Appointments of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and to Committees and Outside Bodies
Status: For Publication

Report to: The Council

Date: 19th May 2006

Report of: Chief Executive

Portfolio

Holder: Leader of the Council

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To appoint the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and to gain approval from the Council to the appointment of Committees and representatives on outside bodies for the coming municipal year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council approve the appointments proposed by the various political groups set out in the following appendices:
- a) Appendix 1 – The Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet,
 - b) Appendix 2 – The Committees of the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees, including Chairs and Vice-Chairs
 - c) Appendix 3 - Representatives on outside bodies

3. REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 At each annual meeting the Council is required to make a range of appointments for the coming municipal year. This report sets out the proposals of the Council's various political groups for these appointments following the recent elections.
- 3.2 Members will be aware that strict rules on political balance or proportionality apply to appointments to decision making bodies of the Council, although not to Area Fora. The first page of Appendix 2 illustrates how the proposals made reflect the political balance of the Council following the elections.

- 3.3 Political balance does not apply to the Cabinet which may be either single or multi party. The proposals in Appendix 1 are those of the largest group and reflect the previous position of a single party cabinet of 6 members, including the Leader of the Council.
- 3.4 There are a number of internal member working groups to which political balance does not apply and the constitutional status of which is unclear, as are the various champion roles created over time in relation to specific areas. It is proposed to make formalising the constitution of such groups an early priority for the Constitution Working Group, to be created in June. In most cases it seems likely that member working groups would become an advisory group for the relevant portfolio holder in relation to a particular topic with properly defined terms of reference. This is not an attempt to remove the flexibility which such ad hoc groups can give. However, it is important that the powers and responsibilities of any group are properly defined in relation to the Council's constitutional arrangements and the legal framework within which the Council operates.
- 3.5 The appointments to outside bodies proposals represent a consensus position between the majority and opposition groups, with little change from the previous position.

4. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

4.1 FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. Risk issues are dealt with below.

4.2 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.2.1 Certain of the roles to which members are appointed, for example Development Control or Licensing Committee, or a directorship of the Bus Company require specific training and this will be arranged for members new to such roles.
- 4.2.2 In line with the situation in many other councils there is currently no systematic way in which representatives on outside bodies can feedback to the wider council on the activities of those bodies. As part of the improvement plan for members services it is proposed to utilise facilities within the new intranet to allow this to happen. Similarly a means by which the proceedings of the Area Fora can be reported back to the Full Council will be developed over the coming year.

4.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

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

4.4 ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.4.1 The bodies to which appointments are proposed have an impact across the full range of the Council's activities and priorities.

5. RISK

5.1.1 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.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT

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. EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT

7.1 There are no specific equalities issues arising from this report.

8. WARDS AFFECTED

8.1 Various as reflected in the geographic nature of some of the groups to which appointments are being made.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 Political groups, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Background documents:

None

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

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