

Meeting: COUNCIL
Date: 10 JUNE 2014

Agenda Item:

6

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider various matters relating to the political management structure of the Council and the Council's Constitution for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Terms of Reference, as detailed in the appendices to this report; and the size and political composition, to be agreed under the alternative arrangements provisions (to be confirmed), for the following bodies that form the political management structure of the Council, be approved:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix A) – 13 Members (11 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
- Community Select Committee (Appendix B) – 10 Members (8 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
- Environment and Economy Select Committee (Appendix C) - 10 Members (8 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
- Planning & Development Committee (Appendix D) – 13 Members (11 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
- Licensing Committee (Appendix E) – 13 Members (11 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
- General Purposes Committee (Appendix F) – 13 Members (11 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
- Appointments Committee (Appendix G) - 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
- Standards Committee (Appendix H) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
- Audit Committee (Appendix I) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group) + 1 Co-opted non-elected member

- Statement of Accounts Committee (Appendix J) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)

NOTE: The size and composition of the Committees as quoted above is subject to there being no dissent to the proposed appointment by alternative arrangements for the purposes of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups), Regulations 1990, Regulation 20 and the Licensing Act 2003

- 2.2 That Council approves the dates for Council meetings for the Municipal Year, as shown at paragraph 4.7 and notes the draft dates for other meetings as shown at Appendix K.
- 2.3 That the appointment of the Executive by the Leader and the allocation of portfolios as set out in in paragraph 4.5 be noted.
- 2.4 That it be noted that the Leader has delegated £2,500 Local Community Budget to each Councillor for projects or activities that benefit their Wards and a Youth Community Budget of £3,300 the spend of which is to be directed by the Youth Mayor.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The appointment and the terms of reference of Scrutiny, Regulatory and Advisory Committees that have no Executive functions are matters to be determined by Council.
- 3.2 Additionally it is for the Council to agree the dates of Council meetings and changes to the Constitution.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTIONS AND OTHER OPTIONS

Council's Committees and Panels -Terms of Reference and Composition

- 4.1 It is understood that the political groups on the Council are to agree to the appointment of Committees and their composition, as recommended, by alternative arrangements for the purposes of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups), Regulations 1990, Regulation 20 and the Licensing Act 2003. The composition of each Committee quoted in the recommendations reflects these arrangements.

Scrutiny Arrangements

- 4.2 It is proposed that the number of Select Committees be reduced to two, the Environment & Economy Select Committee with responsibility for scrutiny of services that fall within the purview of the Strategic Director (Environment) and the Community Select Committee having responsibility for scrutiny of services under the Strategic Director (Community). The latter Committee is to include housing within its remit. It is noted that scrutiny of the Council's Housing Services is work already addressed by the Customer Scrutiny Panel and the Housing Management Board.

- 4.3 Work previously identified for the Housing Select Committee will be subsumed into the workplan for the Community Select Committee.

Executive Delegations

- 4.4 In May 2011 the Council appointed Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE CC as Leader for a 4 year term of office.

- 4.5 Notification has been received from the Leader of the following appointments to the Executive for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year and the allocation of Portfolios –

Councillor John Gardner- Deputy Leader - Environment and Regeneration

Councillor Howard Burrell - Culture, Leisure and Sport

Councillor Richard Henry CC - Safer Communities, Older People and Health

Councillor Mrs Joan Lloyd – Resources

Councillor Ralph Raynor - Economy, Enterprise and Transport

Councillor Simon Speller – Children and Young People

Councillor Jeannette Thomas – Communities and Neighbourhoods

Councillor Ann Webb – Housing

With the Leader holding specific responsibility for Town Twinning, Modernisation of Local Government – new political structures and the Constitution, Media and Communications, Public Consultations, Partnerships, Members' Services including the Modern Member Programme and the Civic Suite.

- 4.6 The Leader has agreed to continue the delegation to individual Members on the spend of Local Community Budgets (LCB) for projects or activities that benefit their Wards. In accordance with the decisions taken in relation to the 2014/2015 Budget the sum of each Councillor's LCB is £2,500. It has also been agreed that the Youth Mayor directs the spend of the Youth Community Budget of £3,300.

Dates of Council meetings

- 4.7 To comply with Standing Orders the Council should approve its programme of meetings annually. The approval of dates for Council meetings for the year does not preclude extraordinary or special meetings being called by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor; nor for the date, time or place to be altered where a material change of circumstances makes it necessary. The dates proposed for Council are as follows:

- Wednesday 16 July 2014
- Wednesday 8 October 2014

- Wednesday 10 December 2014
- Wednesday 28 January 2015 (Special Meeting – Rent setting)
- Wednesday 25 February 2015

4.8 A provisional calendar of formal meetings is also appended to this report. This calendar will be subject to change and any alterations to dates of meetings, additions and cancellations will be notified to Members. Previous draft versions of the calendar should be discarded.

4.9 It should be noted that the draft calendar includes some dates for 'Select Committees' details of which specific meetings will be held on those dates will be notified to Members as we go through the year. The draft also includes the monthly 'Modern Member Programme' training and development events.

4.10 The calendar of formal meetings also appears on the Council's website and is regularly updated.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- The Council's Constitution

APPENDICES

- Terms of Reference (Appendices A-J)
- Provisional calendar of meetings (Appendix K)