

Meeting: ANNUAL COUNCIL
Date: 26 MAY 2015

Agenda Item:

10

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider various matters relating to the member level decision making 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 in accordance with the rules of proportionality, where appropriate, be approved for the following bodies that form the non-Executive Member level decision making structure of the Council:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee* (Appendix A) – 13 Members (10 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Community Select Committee* (Appendix B) – 10 Members (7 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Environment and Economy Select Committee* (Appendix C) - 10 Members (7 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Planning & Development Committee* (Appendix D) – 13 Members (10 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Licensing Committee (Appendix E) – 13 Members (10 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- General Purposes Committee* (Appendix F) – 13 Members (10 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Appointments Committee* (Appendix G) - 8 Members (6 Labour Group, 1 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Standards Committee* (Appendix H) – 8 Members (6 Labour Group, 1 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Audit Committee* (Appendix I) – 8 Members (6 Labour Group, 1 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group) + 1 Co-opted non-elected member
- Statement of Accounts Committee* (Appendix J) – 7 Members (6 Labour Group, 1 Conservative Group)

* Indicates where those bodies covered by the rules of proportionality for the

purposes of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups), Regulations 1990.

- 2.2 That Council approves the dates for Council meetings for the Municipal Year, as shown at paragraph 4.3 and notes the draft dates for other meetings as shown at Appendix K.
- 2.3 That Council appoints 5 Members to the Housing Management Board (4 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Member).

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 The proposed Terms of Reference for each of the bodies to be appointed by Council are set out in Appendices A-J. With the exception of the Licensing Committee the political composition of those Committees is directed by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Scrutiny Arrangements

- 4.2 The Terms of Reference quoted for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Environment & Economy Select Committees are linked with the areas of responsibility of the current three Strategic Directors. With the new Chief Executive taking office on 1 June 2015 and the reduction from three to two Strategic Directors the individual areas of responsibility may be amended. Should this be the case revised terms of reference will be submitted to the next Council meeting.

Dates of Council meetings

- 4.3 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 22 July 2015
 - Wednesday 7 October 2015
 - Wednesday 9 December 2015
 - Tuesday 26 January 2016 (Special Meeting – Rent setting)

- Wednesday 24 February 2016
- Tuesday 24 May 2016 (Annual Council)

- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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' (MMP) training and development events.
- 4.6 The calendar of formal meetings also appears on the Council's website and is regularly updated.

Housing Management Board

- 4.7 The current terms of reference of the Housing Management Board provides for the appointment of 5 Councillors (to include 1 Opposition Member), along with tenant, leaseholder, and officer representatives. The Councillor representatives are to be appointed each year at the Annual Council. Details of those Members who have been nominated to serve on the Housing Management Board will be circulated at the Council meeting.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- The Council's Constitution
- Terms of Reference – Housing Management Board

APPENDICES

- Terms of Reference
 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix A)
 - Community Select Committee (Appendix B)
 - Environment and Economy Select Committee (Appendix C)
 - Planning and Development Committee (Appendix D)
 - Licensing Committee (Appendix E)
 - General Purposes Committee (Appendix F)
 - Appointments Committee (Appendix G)
 - Standards Committee (Appendix H)
 - Audit Committee (Appendix I)
 - Statement of Accounts Committee (Appendix J)
- Provisional calendar of meetings (Appendix K)