

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Annual Council

DATE: 19th May 2011

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, QUASI-JUDICIAL AND OTHER BODIES AND ALLOCATION OF POLITICAL GROUP OFFICER SUPPORT

1 Purpose of Report

To appoint the Committees, quasi-judicial and other bodies as set out in the Constitution, to agree the allocation of seats on those bodies and to appoint to those seats in accordance with Group wishes.

To receive the report of the Leader on the appointment of the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet.

To agree the allocation of Political Group officer support to Political Groups.

This report reflects the Council's current Constitution and Members should note that any amendments agreed to the Constitution may affect the decisions required on appointments to Cabinet and Committees.

2. Recommendations

The Council is requested to resolve:

- (a) That Committees be appointed and seats thereon allocated to political groups in accordance with the rules of proportionality, as set out in **Appendix 1**. (To Follow)
- (b) That appointments be made to Committees in accordance with the nominations received from political groups (To Follow).
- (c) That the Leader of the Council be appointed for a period of up to four years.
- (d) That the report of the Leader on appointment of the Deputy Leader and Commissioners (the Cabinet) and their portfolios be received. (To Follow).
- (e) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees be appointed as submitted (To Follow).
- (f) The allocation of Political Group Officer support to Political Groups.
- (g) That appointments be made to quasi-judicial and other bodies as set out in **Appendix 2**, in accordance with the requirements of proportionality (where applicable) and group nominations (To Follow).

- (h) That the timetable of ordinary meetings of the Council for the 2011/12 municipal year as set out in Paragraph 5.6 be approved.

3. **Community Strategy Priorities**

Effective, transparent and equitable democratic and decision making processes are an essential pre-requisite to the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

4. **Other Implications**

The recommendations within this report meet legal requirements (primarily the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations) and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The proposals have no workforce implications and any financial implications have been reflected within the approved budget. There are no Human Rights Act implications.

The Council has agreed to adopt a 'strong leader' model and the Constitution has been amended to give effect to this decision. The Constitution requires the Leader to be a Member elected to the position of Leader by the Annual meeting of the Council starting from May 2011.

The Leader will hold office for a period of up to four years from the date of appointment by the Council or for such lesser period of time as the Leader holds office as a Councillor. The Leader's term of office will extend to the annual meeting of Council immediately following his or her retirement or failure to get re-elected and at that meeting another leader will be appointed by the Council and the former Leader's term of office ends.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 An earlier item on the agenda sought agreement to the Council's Constitution. It is now necessary to appoint to the Committees, quasi-judicial and other bodies as set out in the Constitution. This report assumes that any recommendations of the Member Panel on the Constitution in respect of the Council's decision-making structure have been adopted. If they are not and/or the Council makes any other amendments to the Constitution, appropriate adjustments may need to be made to the appendices to this report.

Allocation of Seats on Committees, Quasi-judicial and other Bodies

- 5.2 Memorials confirming the establishment of political groups following the local elections are awaited. Following receipt of this information a revised 'basket' of seats will be circulated to the Council.
- 5.3 The Council is asked to agree the allocation of seats on Committees, quasi-judicial and other bodies and to appoint to those seats. The allocation of seats on those Committees where proportionality applies has been calculated and is set out in **Appendix 1 (To Follow)**.
- 5.4 Nominations from political groups for appointments to seats on Committees, etc have been sought and will be circulated when received.

Allocation of Political Group Officer Support

- 5.5 Under the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 the Council can appoint assistants for political groups. A political group qualifies for a post if it comprises at least one-tenth of the membership of the Authority. A political group cannot have more than one political assistant and the total number of political assistants is limited to three. As part of the budget process for 2011/12, the Council agreed that for the provision of political assistant support would be reduced from 3 FTE to:

- 1 FTE Political Group Officer allocated to the Controlling Group.
- 1 FTE allocated to remaining groups (collectively) who have an entitlement to support under the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.

Group Memorials are currently awaited and will be reported to the Council. The Council will need to take a decision on how the Political Group Officer provision will be allocated between Groups.

Dates of Council Meetings – 2011/12

- 5.6 The Constitution requires the timetable of ordinary meetings of the Council for the forthcoming year to be approved at the Annual Meeting. The dates of Council meetings (all at 7.00pm) for 2011/12 were previously agreed by the Council and are as follows:

28th June 2011
26th July 2011
29th September 2011
29th November 2011
31st January 2012
16th February 2012 or 21st February 2012 (Budget)
24th April 2012

6. Appendices – To Follow

Appendix 1 - Cabinet and Committee allocations in accordance with proportionality rules.

Appendix 2 - Quasi-judicial and other bodies.

7. Background Papers

Memoranda of Political Group Membership

Council Constitution

Nominations from Political Groups

Further details regarding school appeal Panel Members available on request from Democratic Services.