

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Annual Council

DATE: 5th June 2014

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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 review the representation of different political groups on those bodies, agree the allocation of seats and appoint to those seats in accordance with Group wishes.

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

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

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 (To follow - **Appendix 1**)
- (b) That appointments be made to Committees in accordance with the nominations received from political groups (To Follow-**Appendix 2**).
- (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-**Appendix 2**).
- (e) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees be appointed as submitted (To Follow-**Appendix 2**).
- (f) The allocation of Political Officer support to Political Groups
- (g) That appointments be made to quasi-judicial and other bodies as set out in **Appendix 3**, in accordance with the requirements of proportionality (where applicable) and group nominations (To Follow).

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.

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 imposes a duty on Council's to review the representation of different political groups on bodies to which the Council makes appointments. The Act requires that the review should be undertaken at the annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting.

The Council operates a 'strong leader' model which requires the Leader to be a Member elected to the position of Leader by the Annual meeting of the Council.

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 It is a requirement to appoint to the Committees, quasi-judicial and other bodies as set out in the Constitution.

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

Under the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 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. 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 – 2014/15

- 5.5 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 2014/15 were previously agreed at the Council meeting on 18th February 2014 and are as follows:

22nd July 2014
25th September 2014
25th November 2014
27th January 2015
19th February 2015 (Budget)
21st April 2015
14th May 2015 (Annual Meeting)

6. **Appendices – To Follow**

Appendix 1 – Allocation of Seats
Appendix 2 - Cabinet and Committee appointments in accordance with proportionality rules.
Appendix 3 - Quasi-judicial and other bodies – appointments/nominations.

7. **Background Papers**

None