

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Annual Council

DATE: 18th May 2017

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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 report of the Leader on appointment of the Deputy Leader and Commissioners (the Cabinet) and their portfolios be received. (To Follow-**Appendix 2**).
- (d) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees be appointed as submitted (To Follow-**Appendix 2**).
- (e) The allocation of Political Officer support to Political Groups
- (f) 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).

- (g) That Mr Zafar Iqbal be appointed as a Co-Opted Member on the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee with effect from 19th May 2017 until the Annual meeting of the Council in 2021.
- (h) That subject to the Council's approval of agenda item 7, recommendation (b) (Arrangements for Dismissal of Head of Paid Services, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer) Members be appointed to the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee.

3. **Slough Joint Wellbeing 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**

(a) Legal 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 Council. At the annual meeting of Council in June 2016, Councillor Munawar was appointed as Leader of the Council for a period of four years.

(b) Financial Implications

The Independent Co-Opted Members appointed to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee receive an allowance of £516 per annum.

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.

Co-Opted Independent Member - Audit and Corporate Governance Committee

- 5.5 Following the resignation of two Co-Opted Members of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee (ACGC), the vacancies were advertised on the Council's website and details circulated to interested organisations. Mr Iqbal was interviewed by Group Leaders in April 2017. Following the interview, Group Leaders recommended the appointment of Mr Iqbal as a Co-Opted Member for a four year term of office.
- 5.6 It is envisaged that a further recruitment process will be conducted later in the year to recruit to the remaining vacant Co-Opted Member position.

Allocation of Political Group Officer Support

- 5.6 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 – 2017/18

- 5.7 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 2017/18 were previously agreed at the Council meeting on 23rd February 2017 and are as follows:

25th July 2017
28th September 2017
28th November 2017
30th January 2018
22nd February 2018 (Budget)
24th April 2018
15th May 2018 (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