

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Annual Council

DATE: 17th May 2018

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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 (**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) To note that, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, the Leader holds office until 28th November 2021 subject to his re-election as a councillor in May 2019.

- (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).
- (h) That Dr Louis Lee be appointed as the Council's Independent Person with effect from 18th May 2018 until the Annual meeting of the Council in 2022.

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**

(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 meeting of Council in November 2017, Councillor Swindlehurst was appointed as Leader of the Council for a period of four years. In accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution the Leader holds 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. Councillor Swindlehurst's term of office as a Councillor ends in May 2019.

(b) Financial Implications

The Independent Person will receive an allowance of £1,263 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.

Independent Person

- 5.5 The Localism Act 2011 established a new position of Independent Person for the Council, who must be consulted at various stages of the Member Complaints process. At a meeting of the Council in September 2014, Dr Louis Lee was appointed as the Council's Independent Person until May 2018.
- 5.7 Details of the post were advertised online and Dr Louis Lee was interviewed by Group Leaders in March 2018. Group Leaders recommended the appointment of Dr Louis Lee as Independent Person for a four year term of office.

Allocation of Political Group Officer Support

- 5.8 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 – 2018/19

- 5.9 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 2018/19 were previously agreed at the Council meeting on 22nd February 2018 and are as follows:

24th July 2018
27th September 2018
27th November 2018
29th January 2019
21st February 2019 (Budget)
23rd April 2019
14th May 2019 (Annual Meeting)

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Allocation of Seats – Proportionality (To Follow)
Appendix 2 - Cabinet and Committee appointments in accordance with proportionality rules (To Follow)
Appendix 3 - Quasi-judicial and other bodies: appointments/nominations (To Follow)

7. Background Papers

None