

 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	ANNUAL COUNCIL - 26 MAY 2021
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 9
Subject	APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Council
Accountable officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Tel: 01285 623607 Email: robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	<p>This Report sets out those matters reserved to Council at its Annual Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish the allocation of seats to political groups based on proportionality and to agree arrangements for making the necessary adjustments to proportionality based on appointments to individual Committees. • To make appointments to Committees for the Civic Year 2021/22. • To make appointments to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of Committees for the Civic Year 2021/22
Annexes	Annex A - Details of the Committees for which appointments are to be made. An updated Annex A setting out the nominations from the Group Leaders will be emailed to Members before meeting.
Recommendation/s	<p><i>Full Council is recommended to:</i></p> <p><i>a) Determine that, in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act"), the Council shall continue to apply the political balance provisions under the Act;</i></p> <p><i>b) Appoint Councillors to serve on the Council's Committees as set out in Annex A for a term of office expiring at the next Annual Meeting of the Council;</i></p> <p><i>c) Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair for the Council's Committees for the Civic Year, 2021/22 by asking members of each committee to elect their Chair and Vice-Chair.</i></p>
Corporate priorities	All
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	N/A

I. BACKGROUND

- I.1.** The Act requires the Council to allocate Committee seats to political groups in proportion, as far as is reasonably practicable to the size of those groups on the Council and that the Council review that allocation each year at the Annual Meeting. The requirement is for representation to be proportional on each Committee and across the relevant Committees taken as a whole, subject to Section 15 (5) (b) of the Act which provides that where the majority of seats on the Council are held by one political group, that group shall have a majority on all bodies to which appointments are made.
- I.2.** Membership of political groups of the Council will be reported to the Annual Meeting elsewhere on the Agenda. This will then inform the proportionality calculation for each Committee.
- I.3.** Under the Council's political groups scheme, if the Council is unable to make appointments or matters change during the year the Chief Executive is authorised to consult with the group leaders and following that consultation to adjust the number and allocation of seats to each group to give effect to the rules on proportionality and to make appointments as necessary, in accordance with the nominations of the group leaders.
- I.4.** It is open to the Council or a Committee or other relevant council body carrying out a review, to adopt some other arrangement and allocate seats on a different basis other than that prescribed by the Act. Notice of such a proposal must be given in the council summons, and a decision would have to be made without any member voting against the arrangement. This is known as a nem con vote by the Council. Abstentions from voting do not invalidate the nem con vote. Notice has been given on the Agenda so that Council is not denied that opportunity.
- I.5.** Committee membership is for one year with the appointments made at the Annual Meeting.
- I.6.** Members who serve on the Cabinet cannot serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- I.7.** Under the Constitution, Members cannot serve on the Planning or Licensing Committee unless they have received training.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1.** Under Section 15 of the Act, the Council must review the representation of the different political groups on Committees and other relevant Council bodies at the Annual Council Meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. The statutory provisions have been added to by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended in 1991.
- 2.2.** The Constitution requires the Annual Meeting of Council to appoint Councillors to serve on the Council's Committees and other Council bodies for the civic year 2021/22.
- 2.3.** It is for each Committee to elect its Chair and Vice-Chair. However, it is the custom and practice of the Council for this to be done at the Annual Meeting by inviting the newly elected Committee to call for nominations so that a vote can be taken.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1.** None

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. As detailed in the report

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1. An effective Committee structure and decision making process is central to the success of the Council's improvement programme. There is a risk that if appointments are not made this could result in a delay in decision making for the Council.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

6.1. An equalities impact assessment is not required

7. ECOLOGICAL AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

8.1. None

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1. There are no relevant background documents

(END)

Annex A Committee Appointments

Planning and Licensing Committee (11 seats)

Chair:

Vice-Chair:

Liberal Democrats (6 seats)	Conservatives (4 seats)	Green Party (0 seats)	Independent (1 seat)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10 seats)

Chair:

Vice-Chair:

Liberal Democrats (4 seats)	Conservatives (5 seats)	Green Party (1 seat)	Independent (0 seats)

Audit Committee (7 seats)

Chair:

Vice-Chair:

Liberal Democrats (4 seats)	Conservatives (3 seats)	Green Party (0 seats)	Independent (0 seats)