
Appointment of Council Committees 2024- 2025 Municipal Year

Decision to be taken by: Full Council

Date of meeting: 5th September 2024

Lead director/officer: Kamal Adatia

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks the approval of Members to re-establish the Council's Overview Select Committee with a membership of 12 instead of a membership of 8 Councillors that was agreed at the AGM on 16th May 2024.

2. Recommended actions/decision

- 2.1 That the Overview Select Committee be re-established in accordance with the existing Terms of Reference but with a membership of 12 members in accordance with the list which will be circulated with the Council script, it being noted that any remaining places will be filled in accordance with relevant procedures and in consultation with the relevant Members

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

- 3.1 The size of OSC has been the subject of Council debate and resolutions in both 2023 and 2024.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

Appointment of Committees

- 4.1 Council Procedure Rule 35 requires the Council to appoint such committees as it shall determine and to agree their respective size and Terms of Reference.
- 4.2 At the Council's AGM on 16th May 2024 the full suite of Council Committees was established for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Political Balance

- 4.3 The rules regarding political balance are contained in legislation (Local Government and Housing Act 1989 & The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. These establish four principles as follows:
- a. All the seats on a committee should not be allocated to the same political group.
(*Preventing domination by a single group*)

- b. If one political group has a majority in the full Council, that political group should have a majority on each committee. (*Ensuring a majority group enjoys a majority on all committees*)
- c. Subject to the above two principles, the total number of seats on all the committees of the Authority allocated to each political group should be in the same proportion as that political group's seats on the full Council. (*Aggregating all committee places and allocating fair shares*)
- d. Subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each committee of the Authority allocated to each political group should be in the same proportion as that political group's seats on the full Council. (*Ensuring as far as practicable fairness on each committee*)

4.4 The current political balance of the Council is as follows:

<i>57.41% Labour</i>
<i>27.78% Conservative</i>
<i>5.56% Green</i>
<i>5.56% Liberal Democrat</i>

4.5 This balance result in the following allocation of places on OSC (8 Member Committee):

<i>5 Labour</i>
<i>2 Conservative</i>
<i>1 either Green or Liberal Democrat</i>

4.6 If the size of OSC is expanded to 12 Members there will be the following spread of places:

<i>7 Labour</i>
<i>3 Conservative</i>
<i>1 Green</i>
<i>1 Liberal Democrat</i>

4.7 A membership of 12 Councillors enables (i) every Scrutiny Commission Chair to be a Member of OSC and (ii) entitles every Group on the Council to be represented on OSC.

4.8 Note that the legislative provisions take account of non-Grouped Members in a different manner to Grouped Members. At the commencement of the Municipal Year May 2024/25 there was one non-Grouped Member on the Council, and the allocation of seats across the 13 or so Committees/Commissions took account of their entitlement to places. Although there has since been an additional non-Grouped Member (through resignation from one of the established political Groups) the trigger for a mid-year review of places has not occurred. It is highly unlikely that the 12 places on OSC will result in any of the established Groups (who have first entitlement in law to those seats) declining to take up a seat and therefore it is not anticipated that non-grouped Councillors will acquire a seat this municipal year.

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5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

This report is solely concerned with legal requirements.
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Signed:

Dated:

5.2 Legal implications

The legal requirements are covered in section 4 above.
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Signed: Kamal Adata

Dated: 27.08.2024

5.3 Equalities implications

There are no Equality Implications arising from this report.
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Signed: Sukhi Biring

Dated: 20.08.2024

5.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no climate change implications arising from this report.
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Signed:

Dated:

5.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None

6. Background information and other papers:

7. Summary of appendices:

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)? No

9. Is this a “key decision”? No