

APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Purpose of Report

1. The Committee is requested to give further consideration to the appointment of members to its three Sub-Committees.

Background

2. At its meeting on 18 May 2011, the Committee considered making appointments to these Sub-Committees. Cllr Morland asked whether sub-committees must be constituted on a politically proportional basis and requested that advice be sought from the Monitoring Officer. After some discussion, the Committee resolved as follows:-

To appoint members to serve on the sub-committees of this Committee for the ensuing year as set out below, subject to the views of the Monitoring Officer:-

- (1) Senior Officers Employment Sub-Committee
Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Jane Scott & a Liberal Democrat nominee.
(Substitute Members: Cllr Rod Eaton, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr John Smale & a Liberal Democrat nominee.)
- (2) Appeals Sub-Committee
Cllr Rod Eaton, Cllr John Noeken & a Liberal Democrat nominee.
(Substitute Members: Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr John Smale & a Liberal Democrat nominee.)
- (3) Grievance Appeals Sub-Committee
Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Mike Hewitt & a Liberal Democrat nominee.
(Substitute Members: Cllr Rod Eaton, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr Jonathon Seed & a Liberal Democrat nominee.)

Main Considerations for the Committee

3. Under sections 15-17 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and subsequent regulations, the Council must review the representation of the different political groups on committees at the Annual Council Meeting. These requirements also apply to sub-committees and accordingly a committee must carry out a similar review regarding its sub-committees at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the Council.

4. This Committee's three Sub-Committees each consist of three members, i.e. a total of nine members. By applying the rules on political proportionality and the number of seats each Group holds on the main Committee, the combined membership of the three Sub-Committees should comprise:-

6 members of the Conservative Group
2 members of the Liberal Democrat Group
1 member of the Independent Group
5. The Committee is asked to consider making amendments to the membership of the three Sub-Committees in the light of these Regulations.
6. As an alternative, the Committee could decide not to appoint permanent members to its Sub-Committees but to agree that appointments are made from its membership on a non-political basis as and when a Sub-Committee meeting is required. This would be similar to arrangements adopted by the Licensing and Appeals Committees where the Head of Democratic Services has authority to make appointments to these sub-committees when they are required on an ad hoc basis. However, under the Council's Constitution, it is a requirement that one member of the Cabinet is appointed to the Senior Officers Employment and the Appeals Sub-Committees.
7. As this alternative arrangement would involve setting aside the requirements on political proportionality the decision would have to be made with no member voting against it.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

8. No negative impacts have been identified.

Risk Assessment

9. None

Recommendation

10. The Committee is asked to consider how it wishes appointments to its three Sub-Committees to be made.

IAN GIBBONS
Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report: None