

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 21 May 2015

ITEM 11

Title: Appointment of Committees; Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups; and Appointment of Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Committees

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor

Cabinet Member(s): N Redfearn

Report from Service

Area: Law and Governance

Responsible Officer: Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance (Tel: (0191) 6435339)

Wards affected: ALL

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The Council is requested to approve the appointment of committees/sub committees, the appointment of chairs and deputy chairs of those committees/sub committees and the allocation of seats to the political groups on those committees/sub committees for the 2015/16 Municipal Year, and to approve the appointment of the two co-opted members on the Audit Committee for a further two-year period.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

1. approve the appointment of committees/sub committees for the 2015/16 municipal year and determine the number of seats for each committee as set out in paragraph 1.5.1.1 of the report;
2. approve the allocation of seats on committees/sub committees to political groups represented on the Council, and agree that the leaders of the political groups inform the Head of Law and Governance of their respective groups' nominations of members to each committee/sub committee by 12 noon on Friday 22 May 2015;
3. approve the appointment of chairs and deputy chairs of committees/sub committees for the 2015/16 municipal year, as set out in paragraph 1.5.3.1 of the report;

4. approve the appointment of Mr Kevin Robinson and Mr Malcolm Wilkinson as the two co-opted members on the Audit Committee for a further two year period;
5. note the appointment of Reverend Michael Vine as the Church of England Diocesan representative and Mr Gerry O'Hanlon as the Roman Catholic Diocesan representative on the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee; and consider and determine whether or not it is appropriate to appoint any representative of other faiths/denominations to serve on the Committee; and
6. note that the Elected Mayor will appoint at least one Councillor onto the Health and Wellbeing Board for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 23 March 2015.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report has no direct relevance to the Our North Tyneside Plan priorities.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Appointment of Committees/Sub Committees 2015/16

1.5.1.1 The Council is requested to appoint committees/sub committees for the 2015/16 municipal year as listed below.

Committee/Sub-Committee	No of Seats
Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee	15
Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee	12
Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee	12
Culture and Leisure Sub Committee	12
Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee	12
Environment Sub-Committee	12
Finance Sub-Committee	7
Housing Sub Committee	12
Appeals and Complaints Committee	15
Appointments and Disciplinary Committee	7
Audit Committee	9 (7 elected/2 independent)
Licensing Committee	15
Outside Bodies Committee	7
Planning Committee	15
Regulation and Review Committee	15
Standards Committee	9

1.5.1.2 The Council also established a Health and Wellbeing Board with effect from 1 April 2013 in accordance with the requirements of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

As the Authority operates executive arrangements, the Elected Mayor may instead of or in addition to making a nomination of at least one Councillor onto the Board, be a member of the Board.

It is a matter for the Elected Mayor to nominate at least one Councillor onto the Board. The Authority's Constitution currently states that the membership of the Board will comprise five councillors to be nominated by the Elected Mayor.

The rules relating to the allocation of committee seats according to the political balance of the Council do not apply to the membership of the Board.

1.5.2 Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

1.5.2.1 The rules and requirements for securing political balance on Committees and Sub-Committees appointed by Local Authorities are contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended.

1.5.2.2 The general effects of the balance rules on the Council are that it is under a duty to:

- (i) ensure that the membership of those bodies covered by the rules reflects the political composition of the Council as far as practicable;
- (ii) allocate seats on these bodies to the political groups in proportion to their numerical strength on the Council as far as practicable;
- (iii) accept a nomination made by the groups for the filling of seats allocated to them;
- (iv) review the allocation of seats to political groups at or as soon as practical after the Annual Council Meeting and at certain other specified times.

1.5.2.3 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the following principles to be applied in determining the allocation of committee seats to political groups:

- a) that not all the seats on the committee are allocated to the same political group;
- b) that the majority of the seats on the committee are allocated to a particular political group if that group has a majority of the authority's membership;

Having first satisfied a) and b) above then:

- c) the total of all seats on ordinary Committees shall be allocated to the groups in proportion to their respective political strengths on the Council.

Once a), b) and c) above have been satisfied then:

- d) the number of seats on other affected bodies (Sub-Committees/other bodies) shall also be allocated to the political groups in proportion of their respective political strengths on the Council.

1.5.2.4 The Council composition is 50 Labour members (including the Elected Mayor), 9 Conservative members, and 2 Liberal Democrat members.

1.5.2.5 Details of the allocation of seats to political groups on committees are set out in Appendix 1.

1.5.2.6 Nomination of Committee Members

The leaders of the political groups are requested to inform the Head of Law and Governance of their respective groups' nominations of members to each of the above committees and sub committees, and also the Constitution Task Group and the Members Support Group, by 12 noon on Friday 22 May 2015.

1.5.3 Appointment of Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Committees/Sub Committees

1.5.3.1 The Council is requested to appoint Chairs and Deputy Chairs to its various Committees/Sub Committees for the 2015/16 municipal year as set out below.

	Committee/Sub Committee	Chair	Deputy Chair
1.	Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee		
2.	Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee		
3.	Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee		
4.	Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee		
5.	Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee		
6.	Environment Sub-Committee		
7.	Finance Sub-Committee		
8.	Housing Sub-Committee		
9.	Appeals and Complaints Committee		
10.	Health and Wellbeing Board		
11.	Licensing Committee		
12.	Outside Bodies Committee		
13.	Planning Committee		
14.	Regulation and Review Committee		
15.	Standards Committee		

1.5.3.2 In accordance with the Authority's practice, the Elected Mayor is Chair of the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee.

1.5.3.3 The Authority's Constitution requires that the two co-opted members of the Audit Committee shall fulfil the roles of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee. Mr Kevin Robinson currently serves as Chair of the Committee, with Mr Malcolm Wilkinson serving as Deputy Chair.

In accordance with the Audit Committee's terms of reference, the terms of office of Messrs Robinson and Wilkinson are due to expire in September 2015. The appointment of co-opted members is a matter reserved to the full Council, on the recommendation of the Chief Executive (and Section 151 Officer if the post holder is other than the Chief Executive). It is considered that Messrs Robinson and Wilkinson are suitably skilled and experienced persons who are knowledgeable in audit matters and have enhanced the work of the Audit Committee since their initial appointment in September 2013. The Council is therefore requested to approve the appointment of Mr Robinson and Mr Wilkinson for the next two year period.

1.5.4 Church representatives on Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

1.5.4.1 The Council is requested to note the appointment of Reverend Michael Vine as the Church of England Diocesan representative and Mr Gerry O'Hanlon as the Roman Catholic Diocesan representative on the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee; and to consider and determine whether or not it is appropriate to appoint any representative of other faiths/denominations to serve on the Committee.

1.6 Decision options:

The recommendations contained in this report are based on constitutional or legislative requirements. If more than one nomination is received for any chair or deputy chair position, a vote will be held with the nominee receiving the highest number of votes being appointed to the position.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

To ensure that the Council makes the various appointments set out in the report in accordance with the Authority's Constitution and the relevant legislation.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Allocation of seats on Committees/Sub Committees to political groups represented on the Council.

1.9 Contact officers:

Dave Brown – Law and Governance
Alison Campbell – Finance

Tel: 643 5358
Tel. 643 7038

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and amendment Regulations

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

North Tyneside Council Constitution

Results of Municipal Elections 7 May 2015

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

Allowances for the Committee/Sub Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs are included in the 2015/16 budget for Law and Governance.

2.2 Legal

This report fulfils the requirement of the Authority's Constitution to appoint committees/sub committees at its Annual Meeting. Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 specifies the principles to be applied in determining the allocation of committee seats to political groups.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

The group leaders have been consulted on the revised allocation of seats on each committee/sub committee for the 2015 -16 Municipal Year.

2.4 Human rights

The contents of the report are consistent with the requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

2.6 Risk management

As the recommendations are procedural and a recognised part of the business of the Annual Council meeting, no further risk assessment has been undertaken.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no direct environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive X
- Head of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Head of Corporate Strategy X