

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL – 15 MAY 2019

REPORT BY HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- Council, at its annual meeting, is required to approve the decision-making arrangements for the discharge of functions.

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION:</u> That:		
(A)	The following scrutiny committee, regulatory committees and joint committees be appointed, with the number of voting Members stated:	
	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Number of Members</i>
	Overview and Scrutiny	14
	Performance, Audit and Governance Oversight	7
	Development Management	12
	Licensing	12
	Human Resources	7
	Chief Officer Recruitment	5
	East Herts Council and Stevenage Borough Council Joint Revenues and Benefits	6
	Joint CCTV Executive (3 from East Herts)	12

(B)	The membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the regulatory committees (Development Management and Licensing Committees) and other committees (Performance, Audit and Governance Oversight, Human Resources, Chief Officer Recruitment and East Herts Council and Stevenage Borough Council Joint Revenues and Benefits Committees) be as set out in Essential Reference Paper 'C' with Members being appointed in accordance with the wishes of the political group to whom the seats on these bodies have been allocated.
(C)	Councillor Linda Haysey be appointed as Leader of the Council for the four year term of the Council;
(D)	The intention of the Leader of the Council to appoint 7 Members to the Executive (in addition to the Leader) with the portfolio responsibilities as detailed in Essential Reference Paper 'B', be noted;
(E)	The programme of Council meetings, as detailed at paragraph 5.1 of this report, be approved;
(F)	The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make changes in the standing membership of committees and joint committees in (A) above, in accordance with the wishes of the political group to whom seats on these bodies have been allocated;
(G)	The action to be taken by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader, under delegated authority, concerning the appointment of representatives to outside bodies, be noted ;and
(H)	The Monitoring Officer be authorised to make such amendments to the Council's Constitution as may be necessary to account for the decisions in (A) to (G) above.

1.0 The Executive/Leader of the Council

1.1 Under its Constitution, Council appoints the Leader of the Council. This appointment is for the 'life' of the Council (i.e. until

the next District Council elections in 2023). The Constitution sets out the circumstances when this post becomes vacant. It is proposed that Councillor Linda Haysey be appointed as Leader.

1.2 In terms of the appointment of Members to the Executive, the Constitution provides that this is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council once appointed. The Leader determines the size of the Executive. The Leader's determination on the size of the Executive for 2019/20 is included in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

1.3 The Leader is also responsible for advising Council on the allocation of executive portfolio responsibilities. Executive portfolio responsibilities are set out in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

2.0 Committees

2.1 It is noted that there is an item elsewhere on the agenda proposing changes to the Constitution. It is therefore proposed that one scrutiny committee be established as detailed below, with the same terms of reference as last year:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (14 members)

2.2 It is proposed that two regulatory committees be established, as detailed below. Each of these regulatory committees will have the same terms of reference as last year:

Development Management Committee (12 Members)

Licensing Committee (12 Members)

2.3 It is proposed that other Committees be established as detailed below, with the same terms of reference as last year:

Human Resources Committee (7 Members)

Chief Officer Recruitment Committee (5 Members)

2.4 It is proposed that a new Committee, the Performance, Audit and Governance Oversight Committee (7 Members), be established, which will have the same terms of reference as the Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee last year. The details of the proposed change are contained within the report elsewhere on this agenda.

2.5 Sub-Committees and panels with specific responsibilities relating to licensing and standards matters will be reconstituted by the respective 'parent' Licensing and Performance Audit and Governance Oversight Committee at their first meetings in the civic year immediately after Annual Council.

3.0 Joint Committee

3.1 It is proposed that the Joint Committee for Revenues and Benefits be retained with Stevenage on its existing basis.

4.0 Political Groups

4.1 Where Members of a Council are divided into political groups, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a duty on the Council to review the allocation between those groups of seats on its scrutiny committees, regulatory committees and joint committees according to certain principles. The aim is to ensure the political composition of those committees reflects the political representation of the Council. The rules of proportionality do not apply to the Executive.

4.2 The political groups within East Herts Council will be entitled to an allocation of committee places in proportion to their representation on the Council. The political balance percentage of representation of each relevant group is set out in **Essential Reference Paper 'C'**.

4.3 The Council must appoint Members to places on committees in accordance with each group's entitlement. **Essential Reference paper 'C'** sets out the proposed membership.

4.4 Members of the Executive may not be appointed to serve on scrutiny committees.

5.0 Calendar of Meetings

5.1 A calendar of meetings for 2019/20 has already been published. Council is invited to confirm the dates of its meetings as follows:

24 July 2019
23 October 2019
18 December 2019
3 March 2020
13 May 2020

6.0 Outside Bodies

6.1 Council appoints a significant number of Members to be representatives on a range of outside bodies. The appointment of such representatives is delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

6.2 A separate report on this agenda reviews the work undertaken by outside bodies in 2018/19.

7.0 Implications/Consultations

7.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

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