

Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 6 June 2017



Subject: Overview & Scrutiny Select Committees – Membership 2017/18

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Recommendations/Decisions Required

- (1) That the Committee make appointment to membership of the select committees for the 2017/18 municipal year, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny rules of the Council's Constitution; and**
- (2) That the Committee make appointment to the positions of chairman and vice-chairman of each select committee for 2017/18.**

Report

Introduction

1. (Director of Governance) As the Committee are aware, an Overview and Scrutiny framework based on a structure of four 'select committees', was established from 2015/16. Details of the select committee framework and the responsibilities of each select committee, which reflect the management structure of the Council.
2. The Overview and Scrutiny rules set out within Article 6 of the Council's Constitution require that the Committee determine the number of select committees and review whether they should continue in being, at its first meeting of each municipal year. Additionally, the membership of the select committees is to be appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the first meeting each year, as such appointments are reserved to the Committee and not made by the Council at its annual meeting.
3. The Overview and Scrutiny rules of the Constitution provide that membership of the select committees must reflect pro rata requirements and the lowest number of members necessary to achieve cross-party representation, whilst also allowing for the inclusion of members who are not members of a political group or the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The following options are available to achieve the pro rata membership requirements of the Constitution, for the select committees for 2017/18.

Select Committee Membership – Pro Rata

4. Membership of the select committees has traditionally been based on eleven members. On this basis, the allocation of seats for 2017/18 in accordance with the current political composition of the Council, would be as follows:

Conservative Group: 7

Green Party Group: 0

Liberal Democrat Group: 1

Loughton Residents Association Group: 3

Independent Members: 0

5. However, it should be noted that this approach does not provide for select committee membership to include members of all political groups, or councillors that are not currently members of a political group.
6. The lowest number of members necessary to reflect pro rata requirements in the membership of the select committees for 2017/18, whilst also achieving the cross-party requirements of the Overview and Scrutiny rules of the Constitution, is fifteen members. This would result in the following allocation of seats on each committee:

Conservative Group: 9

Green Party Group: 1

Liberal Democrat Group: 1

Loughton Residents Association Group: 3

Independent Members: 1

7. The Committee is requested to consider the issues set out above and to make appointment to membership of the select committees for 2017/18, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny rules of the Council's Constitution. Nominations to the select committees that have been submitted by Group Leaders are set out in the schedule attached as Appendix 1.
8. Any further nominations will be reported at the meeting. If the number of nominations exceeds the available places, the Committee will be required to vote on these appointments.

Select Committees - Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

9. Appointment to the positions of chairman and vice-chairman of each of the select committees are also reserved to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These appointments are excluded from the calculation arising from the existing protocol on the allocation of chairman and vice-chairman positions for other committees, sub-committees and panels.
10. The Committee is requested to make appointments to the position of chairman and vice-chairman of each select committee for 2017/18. Nominations for the respective chairman and vice-chairman submitted by Group Leaders are also set out in Appendix 1 and any further nominations will be reported at the meeting. Where more than one nomination is received for each position, the Committee will be required to vote on these appointments.