

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Group Leaders

**Date:** 13 May 2019

**Subject:** Annual Council Appointments 2020/21

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## **Recommending:**

- (1) That, in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the constitution of political groups be agreed as set out in Appendix 1;**
- (2) That details of appointments made by the Leader of the Council for Cabinet members and Cabinet Committees carrying out Executive functions as set out in Appendix 2 to this report be received (to follow);**
- (3) That the Membership, Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels (non-Executive bodies) be approved as set out at Appendix 3 to this report with any outstanding nominations reported at the meeting;**
- (4) That the group representatives for the purposes of notifying substitute members for meetings be confirmed as follows:**
  - (a) Conservative Group:**
    - Councillor C. Whitbread (Group Leader);
    - Councillor N Bedford (Deputy Group Leader);
    - Councillor S. Kane; and
    - Councillor M. Sartin;
  - (b) Green Party Group:**
    - Councillor S. Neville (Group Leader); and
    - Councillor S. Heap (Deputy Group Leader);
  - (c) Liberal Democrat Group:**
    - Councillor J. M. Whitehouse (Group Leader); and
    - Councillor J. H. Whitehouse (Deputy Group Leader); and
  - (d) Loughton Residents Association Group:**
    - Councillor C. P. Pond (Group Leader); and
    - Councillor D. Wixley (Deputy Group Leader);
- (5) That the appointments of the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees for 2020/21 be determined at the first municipal meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**

- (6) That appointments to outside organisations carrying out Council regulatory or non-Cabinet functions, as set out at Appendix 4 to this report be approved; and**
- (7) That the appointments to be made by the Leader of the Council to outside organisations carrying out Executive functions, as set out at Appendix 5 be received.**
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1. Following the Epping Forest District Council's position statement on 25 March 2020 that was in line with the approach taken by the national government, a local state of emergency was declared, and it was determined that all committee meetings, unless separately notified would be suspended until further notice.

2. On the 4 April 2020 the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force, which enabled local authorities to have the flexibility to hold meetings at any time of day, on any day, to alter how frequently they were held and to move or cancel them without further notice.

3. In view of the regulations, group leaders and officers considered what essential and non-essential meetings could be held going forward. It was agreed that the Cabinet meeting scheduled for the 26 March 2020, would be held virtually on 15 April 2020 and following this success, some of the essential meetings could start to be held virtually including the Annual Council meeting on 21 May 2020.

4. Normally the Appointments Panel would make recommendations to the Annual Council meeting on the various appointments from political and non-affiliated members. This meeting has not taken place this year and all Group Leaders and non-affiliated members were consulted by email on the 5 May 2020. Furthermore, following a Group Leaders meeting on 13 May 2020, it was agreed that the majority of nominations would remain same for 2020/21, due to the circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic and that no elections had been held in May 2020.

5. Where nominations or changes have been made, they are highlighted within the attached appendices or will be advised at the meeting and if the number of nominations exceeds the available places, the Council will be required to vote on appointments.

6. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.