

Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 4 June 2018



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 following select committees for the 2018/19 municipal year, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny rules of the Council's Constitution; and

**Communities Select Committee;
Governance Select Committee;
Neighbourhoods Select Committee; and
Resources Select Committee;**

- (2) That the Committee make appointment to the positions of chairman and vice-chairman of each of the select committees for 2018/19.

Report

Introduction

1. As the Committee are aware, an Overview and Scrutiny framework based on a structure of four 'select committees', was established from 2015/16. The responsibilities of each select committee reflect the current 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 pro rata on eleven members. Given the current political composition of the Council, 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.

5. For 2017/18, the lowest number of members necessary to reflect pro rata requirements in the membership of the select committees, whilst also achieving the cross-party requirements of the Overview and Scrutiny rules of the Constitution, was fifteen members. Unfortunately, this pro rata approach also does not provide select committee membership for 2018/19, for councillors that are not currently members of a political group approach and would result in the following allocation of seats on each committee:

Conservative Group: 10

Green Party Group: 1

Liberal Democrat Group: 1

Loughton Residents Association Group: 3

Independent Members: 0

6. However, the extension of membership of the select committees to fifteen members for 2018/19 would provide additional seats on the select committees for the Conservative Group (three seats) and the Loughton Residents Association Group (one seat).
7. In order to accommodate independent member representation on the select committees for the next year (if required), the Conservative Group and the Loughton Residents Association Group might wish to relinquish one of the additional seats arising from the extension of membership, in order that this position may be filled by an independent member. Membership of the Committee is required to be appointed on a pro rata basis and such deviation requires no member of Council to vote against this arrangement.
8. The Committee is requested to consider the issues set out above and to make appointment to membership of the select committees for 2018/19, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny rules of the Council's Constitution.
9. Nominations to the select committees that have been submitted by Group Leaders are set out in the schedule attached as Appendix 1 to this report. 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

10. 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.
11. 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.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable membership of the select committees 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.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny

responsibilities.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

None required.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.