



North Devon Council

Report Date: Wednesday, 27 March 2024

Topic: Appointment of Committees

Report by: Chief Executive

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Each year, annual Council is required to review the allocation of seats to political groups. This is a statutory requirement under the requirements of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the Council appoints Committees and Joint Committees each with the total number of voting Members and Group allocations as shown in Tables 1 and 2 for the 2024/25 municipal year with the terms of reference set out in the Council's constitution.
- 2.2. That, as required by section 16(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Members be appointed to Committees and Joint Committees in accordance with the names notified to the Chief Executive by each of the Political Groups represented on the Council, to give effect to the approved allocation of seats as determined at (2.1) above, as set out for the time being in Table 3 (Appendix A).
- 2.3. That the Council appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees and Joint Committees as set out in Table 4 (Appendix A) for the 2024/25 municipal year.
- 2.4. That the Council appoints Members to the Local Government Association and South West Regional Chamber for the period 2024/25 as set out in Table 5 (Appendix A) and that these appointments be approved duties.
- 2.5. That alternative arrangements be made for the appointment of Members to the Appointments Committee in accordance with the powers set out in Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and that the alternative arrangements provide that the membership of the Appointments Committee be not politically balanced.
- 2.6. That alternative arrangements be made for the appointment of Members to the Joint Planning Policy Committee in accordance with the powers set out in Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and that the alternative arrangements provide that the membership of the Joint Planning Policy Committee be not politically balanced.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To establish the Committees for the forthcoming municipal year, determine the size of each committee and the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules.
- 3.2. To receive nominations of Councillors to serve on those Committees.
- 3.3. To appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees.
- 3.4. To appoint Members to the Local Government Association and South West Regional Chamber for the period 2024/25.
- 3.5. To make alternative arrangements for the appointment of Members to the Appointments Committee and the Joint Planning Policy Committee.

4. REPORT

- 4.1. Discussions have taken place between Group Leaders and the below Table 1 reflects an agreement reached as to how political balance should operate for the forthcoming year. This also complies as closely as possible with the principles set out in the above legislation.
- 4.2. It should be noted that the below also reflects an agreement between the Group Leaders that both the North Devon Independent Group and Conservative Group would each fill 1 seat allocated to the Liberal Democrat group on both the Planning Committee and Licensing and Community Safety Committee.
- 4.3. Governance Committee cannot include Strategy and Resources Committee Members.
- 4.4. Strategy and Resources Committee – the Chair of this Committee shall be the Leader of the Council and membership will include all Group Leaders where political balance allows.
- 4.5. Policy Development Committee – the Chair of the Committee may not be a Member of the Strategy and Resources Committee.
- 4.6. Building Control Joint Committee and North Devon Crematorium Joint Committee – as these are Joint Committees with other Local Authorities, appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair will be made at the first meeting of the Joint Committees.

Table 1 - Politically Balanced Committees				
	Number of Cllrs	Liberal Democrat	N. D. Independents	Conservative
Building Control Joint Committee	2	1	1	
Governance Committee (see note above)	9	4	3	2
Harbour Board	4	2	1	1
Licensing and Community Safety Committee	15	6	5	4
North Devon Crematorium Joint Committee	7	4	2	1
Planning Committee	15	6	6	3
Policy Development Committee (see note above)	12	6	4	2
Strategy and Resources Committee (see note above)	13	7	4	2
Total	77	36	26	15

4.8. In addition 9 appointments are required to a Reserve List of Members from which any substitutes required to sit on the Planning Committee shall be drawn, provided that Council will ensure so far as is practicable that the composition of the Reserve List reflects the political balance on Full Council.

TABLE 2				
Reserve list for Planning Committee substitutions				
	Number of Cllrs	Liberal Democrat	N. D Independents	Conservative
Planning	9	4	3	2



5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. The payment of special responsibility allowances and claims for travel and subsistence for approved duties in accordance with the Scheme of Members Allowances will be met from within the approved budget for Members Allowances.

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. This proposal has no relevance to equalities and the protected characteristics. All Councillors are eligible to be appointed to a committee.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. There are no environmental implications arising from these proposals. please state that there are none.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: Not applicable

8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or: Not applicable

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development: Not applicable

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. The decision in respect of the recommendations in this report can be made pursuant to Article 4 [4.5.6 and 4.5.7] of the Constitution.

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: (The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Chief Executive and Senior Corporate and Community Services Officer.