

Council

14 May 2024

Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

Recommendations

That Council:

1. confirms the Committee structure and delegations of non-executive functions to member bodies as set out in the Constitution (subject to any amendments proposed and agreed at this meeting);
2. agrees the appointment of members to the Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 1 (subject to any amendments proposed and agreed at this meeting);
3. confirms the delegations of non-executive functions to officers as set out in the Constitution subject to any amendments proposed and agreed at this meeting, and authorises the Executive Director for Resources to make such amendments to the Council's Constitution as may be required as a consequence of this and any other changes agreed at this meeting;
4. authorises the Chief Executive to agree the final appointments to the Police and Crime Panel in consultation with Group Leaders as she considers to be necessary to meet the requirements of geographical and political proportionality required and to work with District and Borough representatives to achieve that end.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Article 5 of the County Council's Constitution requires, as a minimum, the establishment of the following bodies:
 - a. Cabinet
 - b. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (at least one)
 - c. Audit and Standards Committee
 - d. Regulatory Committee
 - e. Staff and Pensions Committee
- 1.2 The **Cabinet** is appointed by the Leader of the Council (who was appointed at the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2021 for a 4-year period and is automatically a member of and Chair of Cabinet). A maximum of nine other members may be appointed to the Cabinet and their appointment and

portfolios are matters for the Leader. The Leader must also appoint a Deputy Leader from the Cabinet members. The Leader will confirm the appointment of the Cabinet at a Leader Decision Making Session and any changes in the delegations to portfolio holders and support (non-decision making) roles for additional members. The agenda for the Leader Decision Making session will be circulated to all members for information.

- 1.3 **Committees** are appointed by the County Council. These are currently the Audit and Standards Committee, Regulatory Committee, Staff and Pensions Committee and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees; Adult Social Care and Health, Children and Young People, Communities, and Resources and Fire & Rescue. This report seeks the Council's confirmation (or amendment) to the current structure, taking account of the rules set out in the following section, and appointments of members to those seats. (The remit of each Committee is set out in the Council's Constitution and available on the Council's website at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/democracy/constitution-corporate-governance>).
- 1.4 Section 3 of this report also seeks confirmation of membership on a number of other member bodies which fall within the responsibility of Council to appoint, including appointments to some strategic external organisations.
- 1.5 **Sub-Committees** are appointed by their parent Committee. The Pension Fund Investment Sub-Committee is appointed by the Staff and Pensions Committee (meeting on the rising of this meeting). The Dispensations Sub-Committee is appointed as required from time to time by the Chief Executive and taken from membership of the Audit and Standards Committee.
- 1.6 The Chairs and Vice Chairs of all Committees will also be appointed at a meeting of each Committee immediately following this Council meeting, other than the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee which has an independent chair (John Bridgeman) and the Council is invited to confirm his appointment.

2. Allocation of Seats Between Political Groups

- 2.1 The composition of the Council is 42 Conservative Group; 6 Labour Group; 5 Liberal Democrat Group; 3 Green Group and 1 Independent. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that appointments to committees and sub-committees must achieve political balance in their membership. (There are exceptions to this notably for geographically based committees on which all local members sit).
- 2.2 The other rules are:

Committees: the aggregate allocation of all committee seats must be proportional to the party groups' overall membership on the Council. Within those allocations each individual committee must be split as close to the overall proportions as possible.

Sub-committees: the sub-committee is split proportionally – there is no aggregation.

Panels and Working groups: the national rules do not apply but the Council has applied the proportionality rule as a matter of good practice.

- 2.3 The overall rules can be set aside in favour of local arrangements provided this is agreed by the Council with no-one voting against it.
- 2.4 The allocation to committees agreed at the Annual Meeting in May 2023 is set out below and the Council is invited to confirm the allocation of seats for 2024 and to make/confirm membership (completing the tables in the appendix to this report).
- 2.5 Group Leaders are also invited to identify their Group Spokespersons and allocation of Special Responsibility Allowances to their spokespersons. The table below shows the current distribution of seats and the political balance entitlement.

Committees	Con	Lab	LD	Gr	WRA	Total
Audit and Standards Committee (6)	4	1	1			6
Regulatory Committee (12)	10	1			1	12
Staff and Pensions Committee (6)	4	1	1			6
Adult Social Care & Health (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Children and Young People (10)	8	1	1			10
Communities (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Resources and Fire & Rescue (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Political Balance Entitlement 2024	47	7	6	3	1	64

3. Appointments Required to be Made/Confirmed by Council

The Council is invited to confirm appointments to the committees and bodies set out in the Appendix.

3.1 Audit and Standards Committee

The membership of the Audit and Standards Committee is comprised of 6 elected members and two co-opted (independent) members. The Committee is chaired by John Bridgeman, one of the independent members. The Council is invited to confirm the appointment of John Bridgeman as the Chair of the

Committee.

3.2 Health and Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care System

The Health and Wellbeing Board is a committee of the Council but the rules regarding proportionality do not apply to the Board which has a mixed membership of councillor and non-councillor (including statutory officer) appointments. The membership is four county councillors which to date has included the Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care and Health and Children & Families. The Council also appoints the Chair of the Board.

The current County Councillor membership is: Conservative: Councillors Margaret Bell, Sue Markham and Penny-Anne O'Donnell

Liberal Democrat: Jerry Roodhouse

The current chair of the Board is Councillor Margaret Bell, the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health.

Appointments to the various boards and groups comprising the Integrated Care System have been dealt with in previous reports. The County Council representatives currently appointed to the Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership are set out below.

Integrated Care Board: Nigel Minns – Executive Director for Children and Young People (previously the Executive Director for People)

Integrated Care Partnership: Councillor Margaret Bell – Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board, Nigel Minns – Executive Director for Children and Young People, and Shade Agboola – Director of Public Health

Following the report to Council in September 2023 regarding changes to the Council's organisational structure, the responsibilities of the new Executive Director for Social Care and Health provide a better fit with the remit of the Integrated Care Board than those of Nigel Minns, whose responsibilities are now as Executive Director for Children and Young People. It is therefore recommended that Becky Hale, the Executive Director for Social Care and Health be appointed to the Integrated Care Board in place of Nigel Minns. Council is invited to confirm the appointments in Appendix 1.

3.3 Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

On 18 July 2017, the Council agreed to the establishment of the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council each has five seats and appointments by each authority reflects the political balance of that authority.

The current County Councillor membership is:

Conservative: Councillors Jo Barker, John Cooke, Chris Mills and Andy Jenns

Labour: Councillor John Holland

3.4 Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The 'Horton JHOSC' was formed in 2018 following a recommendation from the Secretary of State. This is a joint committee of nine non-executive voting members and one co-opted non-voting member. Having due regard to the patient flow for the Horton General Hospital (HGH), the committee has eight members from Oxfordshire, one from Northamptonshire and one from Warwickshire. Members are appointed to the committee from the relevant overview and scrutiny committee of the respective local authorities and are reflective of the political balance accordingly.

Since the establishment of the Horton Joint Health OSC, the Council has appointed a member of its Adult Social Care and Health OSC as the most appropriate committee from which to draw representation to this joint committee. This approach remains appropriate given the overlap between the nature and remit of the respective committees.

The current County Councillor representative is Councillor Christopher Kettle.

3.5 Corporate Parenting Panel

The membership of the Panel includes the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children & Families as Chair, plus five other members.

The current membership is:

Conservative: Councillors Brett Beetham, Sue Markham, Marian Humphreys, and Penny-Anne O'Donnell

Labour: Councillor Caroline Phillips

Liberal Democrat: Councillor Jerry Roodhouse

The Council is invited to confirm the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families as the Chair.

3.6 Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

This is a statutory body that advises the Cabinet on religious worship and religious education within schools. The membership includes representatives of religious denominations and teacher representatives. The County Council membership is five councillors. There is no statutory requirement for political proportionality.

The current membership is:

Conservative: Councillors Parminder Singh Birdi, John Cooke, and Justin Kerridge

Labour: Councillor Barbara Brown

Liberal Democrat: Councillor Sarah Boad

3.7 Warwickshire Waste Partnership

The Waste Partnership comprises five County Councillors and a councillor from each of the five district and borough councils. It operates under a Memorandum of Understanding and the Chair is appointed by the Partnership.

The current County Councillor membership is:

Conservative: Councillors Richard Baxter-Payne, Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Tim Sinclair, and Heather Timms.

Labour: Councillor Sarah Millar

3.8 Local Pension Board and Fire & Rescue Pension Board

The terms of reference for these two statutory boards specify that the tenure of membership (up to a maximum of nine years) is three years. Each has an independent Chair also appointed for a three-year term. If a member resigns during their term of office the replacement is appointed for three years. Confirmation of re-appointments is for the Scheme Manager (the County Council as the administering authority).

In April 2024, Keith Francis reached the maximum tenure of nine years on the LGPS Local Pension Board. Mr Francis leaves a vacancy on the Board for a Scheme Employer Representative.

Due to her employment with Our Lady of the Magnificat Multi Academy Trust (which is a precepting employer), Mrs Beverley Farmery who was appointed to the post of Scheme Member Representative in late 2023 is also eligible to take up the role of Employer Representative. Following discussions with Mrs Farmery, it has been agreed that she will change roles so that she becomes an Employer Representative on the Board, leaving a vacancy of Scheme Member Representative. It is recommended that Mr Sebastian Burch, who is currently employed by this Council as a Strategy and Policy Officer following completion of the Local Government Association Graduation Scheme at the Council, be appointed to the Board as a Scheme Member representative. Mr Burch will bring the voice of a new generation to the Board and support the desire of the Council for the Board to become more representative of the scheme membership.

Appointments to the Boards are made for a period of three years.

Council is invited to confirm membership for the time being of the Local Pension Board and the Fire and Rescue Local Pension Board in the Appendix.

3.9 **The Police and Crime Panel**

Police and Crime Panels are joint committees of the principal authorities in a police area, which in Warwickshire means the County Council and the five District and Borough councils. The current membership of the Panel is:

County Council Members

Conservative: Councillors Dave Humphreys and Bhagwant Singh Pandher
Labour: Councillors Barbara Brown and John Holland
Liberal Democrat: Councillor Jenny Fradgley
Green: Vacant

District/Borough Members

North Warwickshire Borough Council; Councillor Ray Jarvis (Conservative)
Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council: Councillor Claire Golby (Conservative)
Stratford on Avon District Council: Councillor Natalie Gist (Liberal Democrat)
Rugby Borough Council: Councillor Derek Poole (Conservative)
Warwick District Council: Councillor Jim Sinnott (Labour)

Co-opted Members: Andy Davis and Andrew Davies

The chair is appointed by the Panel and the current chair is Andy Davis.

The composition of the panel has to meet the principle of 'fair representation'. This means that each Council within the police area must have at least one member. The composition should also take account, as far as practical, of both political and geographical proportionality. This means the Councillor members, when taken together, should represent all parts of the police area and also represent the political make-up of the relevant authorities when taken together. The composition of the Panel will be reviewed in light of the results of the local elections and this report seeks authority for the Chief Executive to finalise appointments in liaison with Group Leaders and with the District and Borough Councils.

3.10 **Joint Negotiating Bodies**

The Council has two Joint Negotiating Bodies one for staff and one for teachers. Each has four elected members appointed, (two appointments are made by the Leader and two appointments are made by the Council). The current Council appointments on the joint negotiating bodies are:

Joint Staff Negotiating Body – Councillors Barbara Brown and Bill Gifford

Joint Teachers Negotiating Body – Councillors Barbara Brown and Bill Gifford

3.11 Appointment to strategic external bodies

There is also a need for Council to confirm its appointments to key strategic bodies, namely the Local Government Association, the LGA Fire Commission, West Midlands Employers, Local Access Forum and the County Councils Network. The Council is invited to appoint to these (see recommendation 10 in the Appendix to this report).

4. Members Allowances Scheme

4.1 An Independent Remuneration Panel undertook a review of the Council's Member Allowances Scheme in 2022. The Panel's report on its findings was considered at the Council meeting on 17 May 2022 and a number of changes were agreed to the Scheme. The Panel reported to Council again on 21 March 2023 regarding the issue of indexation and application of the pay award to the Scheme and further changes were made to the Scheme as a result.

4.2 If there are any proposed changes in the political management structure and responsibilities this may impact on the allowances payable under the member allowances scheme and members may then need to consider whether any changes should be referred to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

5. Schemes of Delegation

5.1 The Council's [Constitution](#) sets out the delegation of powers to member bodies and to officers. The Council is invited to confirm these delegations of non-executive functions - except in so far as they may be inconsistent with any changes to the arrangements made for the member bodies set out above.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 All of the proposals set out in the report can be accommodated within the 2024/25 approved budget.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Recommendations

Background Papers

2024/25 Budget and 2024/2029 Medium Term Financial Strategy.

<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=275&MId=3656&Ver=4>

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