

Report to: **Governance Committee**

Date: **26 April 2016**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title of report: **Appointment to committees, sub-committees, panels and other bodies**

Purpose of report: **To consider the allocation of places on committees, sub-committees, panels and other bodies to the six political and independent groups**

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**RECOMMENDATION: The Governance Committee is recommended to:**

- 1) delegate authority to the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with members of the Committee, to update the tables in Appendix 1 to reflect the outcome of the St Helens and Silverhill by-election on 5 May; and**
  - 2) recommend the County Council to allocate to political and independent groups the places on, and membership of, the main committees as set out in Appendix 1 subject to an amendment to reflect the outcome of the by-election.**
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**1. Supporting Information**

1.1 The County Council, at its annual meeting in May, appoints members to committees etc. In appointing members to committees the Council must comply with section 15 of the Local Government Act 1989 and subsequent Regulations. These provide that places on committees must be allocated to political groups in proportion to the number of seats on the Council held by each group, unless there is agreement, without dissent, that the provisions of the Act should not be applied.

1.2 The allocation of places to party groups must, so far as is reasonably practicable, give effect to the following principles:

- (a) not all of the seats on the body can be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) where more than half the members of the Council belong to one political group, that group shall have a majority on all committees, sub-committees, etc;
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the total number of seats on the ordinary committees (including sub-committees) allocated to a political group reflects that group's proportion of the members of the Council;
- (d) subject to (a), (b) and (c) above, the number of seats on each body allocated to a political group reflects the proportion of the seats on the Council held by the group.

1.3 The rules require seats to be allocated on a proportional basis "so far as practicable" and inevitably there must be some rounding up and rounding down. It is open to the Council to review the size and number of committees and sub-committees at any time.

1.4 Members of the Cabinet may not serve on the Scrutiny Committees or the Regulatory Committee and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council may not serve on the Standards Committee.

1.5 The Leader of the Council appoints the Cabinet and allocates portfolios to those Cabinet Members. Political balance provisions do not apply to the Cabinet

1.6 The principle in paragraph 1.2 (c) above applies to appointments to ordinary committees (including sub-committees). Accordingly, before considering the allocation of places to political groups the Committee will need to consider whether it wishes to recommend any changes in committees, including their size.

1.7 Following the Committee's meeting, the group leaders will be asked to let the Assistant Chief Executive have nominations to fill the places on committees previously allocated to their group. The nominations received will be circulated to members of the County Council on the day of the annual council meeting, for approval by the Council.

## **2. Allocation of seats**

2.1 The tables in Appendix 1 show the proposed allocation of seats for 2016/17. The only changes from the allocation agreed by the County Council in July 2015 are the vacancies on the Standards Committee and Regulatory Committee reflecting the current vacancy on the Council. The vacancy will be filled following the by-election on 5 May. In order that the outcome of the by-election can be reflected in the appointment to committees to be considered by the County Council on 10 May, it is proposed that authority be delegated to the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with members of the Committee, to update the tables in Appendix 1 to reflect the outcome of the by-election. The proposals in relation to the committees, their total membership and the number of seats on each to which the groups will be entitled follows the principles set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

## **3. Conclusion**

3.1 The Committee is asked to recommend the County Council to agree the allocation of places on each committee to each group as set out in Appendix 1, as amended following the by-election being held on 5 May 2016.

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Local Member: All

Background Documents: None

Appendix 1

Group	Number of Councillors	%	Number of seats
Conservative	20	41	32
Liberal Democrat	10	21	16
Labour	6	12	10
UKIP	7	14	12
Independent Democrat Group	2	4	3
Independent	3	6	4
Vacancy	1	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>79</b>

COMMITTEE	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Labour	UKIP	Independent Democrat Group	Independent Group	Vacancy
<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
Regulatory (18)	7.35 (7)	3.67 (3)	2.20 (2)	2.57 (3)	0.73 (1)	1.10 (1)	0.37 (1)
Planning (7)	2.86 (3)	1.43 (2)	0.86 (1)	1.00 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (0)	0.15 (0)
Governance (5)	2.04 (2)	1.02 (1)	0.61 (1)	0.71 (1)	0.20 (0)	0.31 (0)	0.10 (0)
Standards Committee (7)	2.86 (2)	1.43 (1)	0.86 (0)	1.00 (1)	0.29 (1)	0.43 (1)	0.15 (1)
Pension Committee (5)	2.04 (2)	1.02 (1)	0.61 (1)	0.71 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (0)	0.15 (0)
<b>Scrutiny Committees:</b>							
Audit, Best Value and Community Services(7)	2.86 (3)	1.43 (2)	0.86 (1)	1.00 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (0)	0.15 (0)
Children's Services (9)	3.67 (4)	1.84 (2)	1.10 (1)	1.29 (1)	0.37 (1)	0.55 (0)	0.18 (0)
Health Overview & Scrutiny (7)	2.86 (3)	1.43 (1)	0.86 (1)	1.00 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (1)	0.15 (0)
Adult Social Care & Community Safety (7)	2.86 (3)	1.43 (1)	0.86 (1)	1.00 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (1)	0.15 (0)
Economy, Transport and Environment (7)	2.86 (3)	1.43 (2)	0.86 (1)	1.00 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (0)	0.15 (0)
<b>TOTALS (79)</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

