

REPORT TO COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

REPORT NO. CEX376

DATE: 17th May 2007

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| TITLE: | Appointments to Committees of the Council |
| KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL: | N/A |
| COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION: | N/A |
| CORPORATE PRIORITY: | N/A |
| CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS: | N/A |
| FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS: | This report is available via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website www.southkesteven.gov.uk |
| BACKGROUND PAPERS: | N/A |

Committee Membership

1. Under the Constitution, the Council is required to appoint members to the various Committees of the Council detailed in section 3 below.

The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations require seats on politically balanced Committees to be allocated according to the respective size of the political groups represented on the Council. Under these regulations to constitute a political group, members have to sign to state that they wish to be treated as a member of a political group and to inform me who the leader of that group is. The regulations mean that members who do not align themselves to a political group (i.e. non-aligned members) do not have any right to be appointed to any Council Committee. I should make it clear that legally the decision made by members regarding their membership of any group on this Council is entirely unrelated to any membership of any national political party or to any statement on their nomination form/ballot paper.

- Because of the agenda deadlines, this report had to be written before the political composition of the Council was known. I am therefore asking that the decisions made by members regarding the composition of political groups is forwarded to me by their respective group leaders by **Friday the 11th of May**. This will enable me to calculate the apportionment of seats on politically-balanced Committees and inform group-leaders so that they can consider their nominations before the Annual Council meeting starts.

Where the Committee is not required to be politically balanced, I have provided advice regarding the basis for appointments. I have also included details of which Committees require members to undertake training.

Positions of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

- The Constitution states that the Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of these Committees are made by Council following the advice of the Leader in regard to the suitability and merit of the candidates.

In order to demonstrate a robust and effective scrutiny process, it is recommended that the chairman of the Scrutiny Committee is not a member of the Administration group

Schedule of Committees

| Committee | No of members | Political Balance Applies? | Training |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Resources Policy Dev Group (PDG) | 7 | Yes | Compulsory |
| Engagement PDG | 7 | Yes | Compulsory |
| Communities PDG | 7 | Yes | Compulsory |
| Scrutiny Committee | 11 | Yes | Compulsory |
| Development Control | 17 | Yes | Compulsory |
| Licensing | 11 | Yes | Compulsory |
| Chief Executives Appraisal Panel | 4 | Yes | Discretionary |
| Housing Review Board | 3 | Yes | Discretionary |
| Constitution Committee | 5 | Yes | Discretionary |
| Corporate Governance and Audit Committee | 5 | Yes | Compulsory |
| Performance Board | 3 (with 3 external members) | No | Discretionary |
| Standards Committee | 3 (with 2 external members) | No | Compulsory |

4. It is recommended that members of the Performance board are selected on the basis of their experience at managing large and complex organisation in either the public or the private sectors. This board does not appear in the constitution because it has no decision-making powers, nor does it have any right to be consulted. The purpose of this body is to use the considerable managerial experience of its members, gained in both the public and the private sector, to provide advice and a challenge that assists in the management of the authority. It has, for example, been particularly active in the development of our performance management framework. Currently it is chaired by Philip Doughty who has not only been a member of this Council but has also held Directorships level posts with both Boots and Thorntons. Other members include Ian Looker, a partner with PWC and John Lucie. None of its members receive any remuneration for their service.
5. It is recommended that the three members of the Standards Committee are drawn from the three largest groups represented on the Council.

Recommendations

6. That in accordance with the relevant legislation, the Council appoints the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the Committees detailed above.

Duncan Kerr
Chief Executive