

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Executive Manager - Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

To: South Holland District Council Wednesday, 23 September 2020

(Author: Rhonda Booth Democratic Services Manager)

Subject Political Group Regulations and Committee Membership Review

Purpose: To confirm, in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, appointments to committees and review of membership.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That the following Committees be appointed in accordance with political group regulations, and with the membership set out in Appendix A:
 - Planning Committee;
 - Governance and Audit;
 - Joint Appointments and Disciplinary Committee;
 - Joint Appointments and Disciplinary Appeal Committee;
 - Policy Development Panel;
 - Performance Monitoring Panel;
 - Licensing Committee;
 - Committee of the Licensing Committee.
- 2) That the following Committees be appointed without being politically balanced and with the membership set out in Appendix A:
 - Standards Panel;
 - Appeals Panel;
 - Settlements Agreements Sub-Committee.
- 3) That the Council reviews current Committee and Panel membership as set out in Appendix A and agrees any changes.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out that the default position for appointments to committees is on politically proportionate grounds. It does however allow for exceptions to the political balance requirements. South Holland District Council has adopted exceptions for the following committees where the membership is not proportionate to the political balance of the Council as a whole and the Independent Group receives more seats than it would otherwise:

- Standards Panel;
- Appeals Panel;

- Settlements Agreements Sub-Committee.

In addition, the Controlling Group has historically not taken up its full allocation of seats on the Performance Monitoring Panel and as a result the Council has allocated those vacant seats to members of the Independent Group. Details of these are set out in the Constitution.

However, when all Committee seats are allocated, including these three Committees, the total number of seats allocated across all committees is politically balanced.

- 1.2 The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 require that exception arrangements are agreed annually and without any member of the authority voting against them. There is also a requirement to review committee seats where there have been changes to the membership of political groups.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report therefore is to confirm, in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the continuation of the arrangements for appointments to the committees and panels listed at 1.1 above and in Appendix A to this report.
- 1.4 The Council has previously agreed, and has included a provision in its constitution, that a full review of the membership of committees is carried out at the first Annual Meeting of the Council following the District Council elections. Appointments to outside bodies are also made at the same meeting for a four year term. Changes to Committee membership (and outside body appointments) can be made at any meeting of the Council. Assuming that the existing arrangements for political group seat allocations are continued, members are invited to confirm the existing appointments at Appendix A.

2.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

- 2.1 This will allow the Council to continue to undertake its business.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Data Protection; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Transformation Programme; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

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| Background papers:- | n/a |
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| Key Decision: | N |
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Exempt Decision: N

This report refers to a Mandatory Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A Committee membership list