

Appointment of Member Level Bodies 2021/22

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| Executive Portfolio Holder: | Val Keitch, Strategy and Housing |
| Strategic Director: | Nicola Hix, Strategy and Support Services |
| Lead Specialist: | Peter Paddon, Strategic Planning |
| Lead Officer: | Angela Cox, Democratic Services Specialist |
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Purpose of the Report

This report seeks approval to appoint member-level bodies (committees and working groups etc.) for the municipal year 2021/2022.

Public Interest

Each year, the Council reviews the membership of its Committees, Boards and representation by Councillors on outside organisations. This report seeks to make the formal appointments to the Council's committees, including the size for each committee and the appointment of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to each committee.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- (1) The Council note that it appointed the Leader of the Council in May 2019 for a period of four years, starting on the day of her election and ending on the day of the post 4-year Council election annual meeting.
- (2) The Council note that the Leader appointed a Deputy Leader in May 2019 to hold office until the end of the term of office of the Leader.
- (3) The Leader appoint between 1 and 8 further District Executive Members.
- (4) The Council re-establish the following member-level bodies for 2021/2022:
 - a. **Scrutiny Committee** (14 members in political balance) (9 LD, 4 Cons, 1 Ind)
 - b. **Audit Committee** (10 members in political balance) (7 LD, 2 Cons, 1 Ind)
 - c. **4 Area Committees** (geographical representation)
 - d. **Regulation Committee** (14 members in political balance) (9 LD, 4 Cons, 1 Ind)



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- e. **Licensing Committee** (15 members – not required to be in political balance)
 - f. **Appointments Committee** (8 members in political balance) (5 LD, 2 Cons, 1 Ind)
 - g. **Standards Committee** (6 District Council members in political balance plus 5 co-optees) (4 LD, 2 Cons)
- (5) The Council appoint members to the bodies listed in recommendation (4) above having regard to the principles of political balance where appropriate as set out in paragraph 4 of this report.
- (6) The Council appoint Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the bodies listed in (4) above.
- (7) The Council agree that the bodies appointed in (5) above will operate in accordance with their existing terms of reference (as attached at Appendix A) and the scheme of delegation set out in Part 3 of the Constitution.
- (8) The Council agree to appoint members to Council wide panels and partnerships below:

| Panel or Partnership | Current Membership | Purpose |
|---|--|---|
| Appeals Panel (political balance) LD4, C3, I1 | Jason Baker Sarah Dyke Peter Gubbins Crispin Raikes Peter Seib Tony Capozzoli Hayward Burt Martin Wale Linda Vijeh | This Panel, which considers and determines appeals by staff in accordance with the Council's Disciplinary Procedure comprises a pool of 8 members from which members are drawn to sit on the appeals as required. As this Panel makes decisions, regard has to be given to political proportionality. |
| Strategic Development Board | Val Keitch, Peter Gubbins, Jason Baker, Henry Hobhouse, John Clark, Sarah Dyke, Adam Dance | The Strategic Development Board will be responsible for managing and coordinating the delivery of the Council's development ambitions for the District including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Housing • Economic Development • Regeneration |
| Chard Regeneration Programme Board | Jason Baker Garry Shortland Martin Wale Dave Bulmer Jenny Kenton | The three boards will be responsible for the delivery of the Regeneration Programme for each of the respective town centres. |

| Panel or Partnership | Current Membership | Purpose |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Yeovil Regeneration Programme Board</p> <p>Wincanton Regeneration Programme Board</p> | <p>Val Keitch</p> <p>Peter Gubbins Tony Lock John Clark Val Keitch</p> <p>Henry Hobhouse Colin Winder Nick Colbert Val Keitch</p> | <p>Each Board also includes the Lead Director, Chief Executive and a limited number of key delivery partners</p> |
| Strategic Alliance with Sedgemoor | <p>Val Keitch Peter Seib Dave Bulmer Linda Vijeh</p> | <p>The purpose of the Strategic Alliance is to achieve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Savings and income generation b. Resilience of service delivery and influence regionally and nationally |
| Income Generation Board | John Clark | <p>The purpose of the Income Generation Board is to stimulate income generation activity across the council, prepare recommendations to steer the future income generating activities of the Council, and monitor the achievement of targets for income generation. The intended effect of this activity is to increase the contribution of income generation to the council's revenue budget.</p> |
| Local Strategic Partnership | <p>Val Keitch Peter Gubbins Jason Baker Adam Dance Henry Hobhouse</p> | <p>The Council has established a Local Strategic Partnership to implement a community strategy for the district. The Council's current representative on the Partnership is the Leader of the Council and the four Area Chairmen.</p> |
| South West Internal Audit Partnership Ltd | Robin Bastable | <p>The Members Board was established to oversee the work of the Audit Partnership, a Company Limited by Guarantee from 1st April 2013, and has one member appointed by this Council.</p> |
| Housing and Exceptions Appeals Panel | <p>Louise Clarke 1 vacancy</p> | <p>This is a joint officer/members panel which determines applies in respect of homelessness applications. There are currently two members who serve on the panels as required.</p> |
| Somerset Waste Board | <p>Sarah Dyke Tim Kerley</p> | <p>This Joint Committee consists of 2 representatives from each Partner Authority in Somerset</p> |

| Panel or Partnership | Current Membership | Purpose |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| PATROL Joint Committee (Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside London) | Tony Lock | This Joint Committee consists of one representative from each Partner Authority in Somerset to deal with car park ticket appeals from the public if they are not in agreement to the decision given by the issuing authority. This is a requirement under CPE (Civil Parking Enforcement) legislation. |
| Somerset Growth Board | John Clark | The Somerset Growth Board has been established to ensure the Somerset Growth Plan is integrated with the economic agendas of the Local Enterprise Partnership and other key partners. It is anticipated that this appointment will be the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Economic Development. |

- (9) The Council agree to appoint members to the Council wide outside bodies as listed below and note that all other appointments to outside bodies will be made by the Area Committees for area specific issues.

| Organisation | Current representatives |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Board of Governors for Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | David Recardo |
| LGA General Assembly | Val Keitch |
| South West Provincial Employers | Linda Vijeh |
| South West Councils | Val Keitch |
| Somerset Rivers Authority | Mike Stanton Robin Bastable (sub) |
| Parrett Drainage Board | Mike Lewis Gerard Tucker (sub) |
| Somerset Water Management Partnership | Sarah Dyke |
| Health & Well-Being Board | Brian Hamilton |
| Safer Somerset Partnership | Tony Lock |
| Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel | Martin Wale |
| Somerset Building Preservation Trust | Tim Kerley |



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|---|---|
| Armed Forces Community Covenant | Andy Kendall |
| Somerset Local Access Forum – new 2 year appointment for 2018 | Paul Maxwell |
| Homelessness Reduction Board – set up Jan 2021 | A collaboration between all Somerset Councils during Covid-19 has worked well, to the benefit of rough sleepers / those with complex lives, and we need to maintain and build on this going forward |

- (10) The Council note the Independent Members' Remuneration Panel have not met for a number of years as Council agreed to an annual uplift of all Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances by the same percentage as the equivalent negotiated APT&C pay award for officers in 2009. We are currently seeking to join the County-wide Remuneration Panel.
- (11) The Council agree the continuation of Council Procedure Rule 40(B) - Appointment of substitute Members at meetings of Committees.
- (12) The Council confirm the Council's annual meetings timetable as attached at Appendix B.

Background

This report asks Council and the Leader to appoint its committees and other member level bodies for the new municipal year. The report also asks the Council to appoint its representatives on outside bodies.

All party groups have been asked for their nominations to serve on the committees.

Report Detail

a. District Executive

Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and between 1 and 8 further Executive Members.

In accordance with the Constitution the Council, the Executive Leader appoints between 1 and 8 further Executive Members. The Leader then maintains the list of responsibilities allocated to individual Executive members, which is reported in Part 3 of the Constitution.

b. Scrutiny Committee



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Political Balance

14 members (LD 9, Cons 4, Ind 1)

The Council has agreed that the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and one Vice Chairman shall be appointed from each of the two minority groups and one Vice Chairman to be appointed from the majority group.

c. Audit Committee

Political Balance

10 Members (LD 7, Cons 2, 1 Ind)

d. Area Committees

Area based committees are exempt from political balance requirements, and comprise the wards as set out below:

| Area Committee East | Area Committee North | Area South Committee | Area West Committee |
|--|--|---|--|
| Blackmoor Vale Bruton Camelot Cary Milborne Port Northstone, Ivelchester and St Michael's Tower Wincanton | Burrow Hill Curry Rivel, Langport and Huish Hamdon Islemoor Martock South Petherton Turn Hill Wessex | Brympton Coker Yeovil (All Wards) Yeovil Without | Blackdown, Tatworth and Forton Chard (All Wards) Crewkerne Eggwood Ilminster Neroche Parrett Windwhistle |

e. Regulation Committee

Political Balance

14 Members (LD 9, Cons 4, Ind 1)

The Council has previously agreed that the Committee should, as far as practicable, also be appointed in geographical balance. For the area that the Chairman comes from there shall be 4 members appointed, and 3 members from the other areas.

f. Licensing Committee

Not required to be appointed in political balance

15 Members (currently LD 11, Cons 3, Ind 1)

g. Appointments Committee

Political Balance

8 Members (LD 5, Cons 2, Ind 1)

h. Standards Committee

Political Balance

6 members (LD 4, Cons 2)* one of whom may be a member of the Executive (appointed by the Leader of Council).

The nominated independent members are: Christopher Borland and Peter Forrester.

There are three vacancies for parish representatives.

1. Council Constitution - Scheme of Delegation and Terms of Reference

The Member-level scheme of delegation and terms of reference for the above Council committees and panels are set out in Part 3 of the Constitution.

The District Council's Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made, and the procedures that are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Some of these processes are required by the law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose.

2. Independent Members' Remuneration Panel

The Independent Members' Remuneration Panel have not met for a number of years as Council agreed to an annual uplift of all Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances by the same percentage as the equivalent negotiated APT&C pay award for officers in 2009. Council at their last meeting requested the scheme be reviewed and officers have sought membership of the County-Wide Members' Remuneration Panel however progress has been delayed by Covid-19.

3. Meetings Timetable

The meetings timetable for 2021/2022 is attached at Appendix B for confirmation.

4. Political Balance and Memberships

In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Council is required to review the representation on committees and to allocate seats to political groups on the basis of the overall political composition of the Council. The exceptions to this rule are area based committees, the District Executive, Licensing Committee and other panels.

The current political composition of the Council is as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Liberal Democrat | 40 seats | 67% |
| Conservative | 14 seats | 23% |
| Independent | 4 seats | 6% |
| Independent Independent | 1 seat | 2% |
| Green | 1 seat | 2% |

The principles of political proportionality embodied in the Act are:-

- (a) that not all seats are allocated to the same political group;
- (b) that a political group with an overall majority gets a majority of seats allocated;
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) that the total number of seats each political group has on all ordinary committees is in proportion to that group's share of the total council elected membership; and
- (d) subject to (a) and (c) that each political group has the same proportion of seats as it holds on the council as a whole.

The Council has a duty therefore to allocate seats in accordance with these principles, as far as reasonably practicable. The Council can however waive political balance if no member votes against.

The political balance on Committees which are required to be in balance is:

| | Seats | Lib Dems | Cons | Ind |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Scrutiny Committee | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| Audit Committee | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| Regulation Committee | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| Standards Committee | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Appointments Committee | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Appeals Panel | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Total seats | 60 | 41 | 14 | 4 |

Member Level Bodies not required to be in political balance:

| | Seats | Lib Dems | Cons | Ind |
|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Licensing Committee (current membership) | 15 | 11 | 3 | 1 |

The appointments to the Executive and the Area Committees are also not required to be in political balance.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in agreeing the appointments in this report. There is a budget provision to cover the basic and special responsibility allowances of all Councillors.

Council meetings have been held on-line since April 2020 and there have been budget savings in travel allowances to attend meetings. The amount varies from month to month but is in the region of £1,000 to £1,400 per month.



Legal implications (if any) and details of Statutory Powers

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review the representation on committees and to allocate seats to political groups on the basis of the overall political composition of the Council.

Council Plan Implications

Council Plan 2020 – 2024 – Council Values:

Getting things done - Empowering dedicated and flexible employees and elected members focussed on delivery

Working collaboratively - Working with partners to enhance outcomes for our communities

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

Since April 2020, the use of Zoom software to hold virtual meetings has reduced the need to travel to attend Council meetings and therefore resulted in reduced carbon emissions from vehicles across the district.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no specific equality or diversity implications arising from the subject matter of this report.

Privacy Impact Assessment

No personal data is involved or processed as a result of this report.

Background Papers

The Council's Constitution – Part 3

Annual reports to Council - Appointment of Member Level Bodies

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Terms of Reference of Committees and Panels

1. District Executive

General

The District Executive will carry out all of the local authority's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the local authority, whether by law or under this Constitution. It is responsible for all executive functions and those local choice functions specified as being the responsibility of the District Executive.

Specifically

The District Executive shall:

- Co-ordinate the policy objectives of the Council, monitor progress towards the corporate objectives, and give the Area Committees strategic direction.
- Consider recommendations from Area Committees, Scrutiny Committee, Audit Committee and Portfolio Holders on policy development and change.
- Recommend key priorities for the Council and the overall policy framework including the Community Strategy.
- Agree core minimum standards for service delivery.
- Consider Referrals from Area Committees on matters, which have major policy or resource implications.
- Keep under review the Council's financial affairs and receive reports from the Head of Financial Services on matters for which he/she is responsible.
- Recommend the Capital Programme, revenue budgets and the level of Council Tax.
- Agree resource allocation procedures and processes, including service planning and performance review arrangements.
- Receive reports on matters relating to the overall staff establishment, discipline, training and welfare, and performance monitoring.
- Approve strategic disposals and acquisition including:
 - leases
 - sales of land valued in excess of £10,000

2. Area Committees

General

Each Area Committee shall monitor service delivery in its area, provide leadership for its communities, and take decisions on regulatory matters such as planning applications and statutory orders. They shall also take executive decisions as specifically delegated by the Executive.

Specifically

The Area Committees shall:

- a. Within their area, take decisions in respect of non-executive functions as listed in section 3 of the Constitution; and take executive decisions as set out section 4 of Part 3 of this Constitution. They may also take all other non-executive (regulatory) decisions required to be made by the Council and affecting their area only, and which are not reserved to be taken by any other committee, or the Council itself.
- b. Determine planning applications within its area subject to guidelines in respect of referrals to the Regulation Committee.
- c. Discuss any matter of interest to the area.
- d. Oversee and monitor the operation of services in their area.
- e. Oversee capital schemes to include budgetary control in cases where this has been delegated by the District Executive.
- f. Manage local regeneration projects within financial limits agreed by District Executive.
- g. Prepare Area Action Plans.
- h. Make nominations to serve on outside bodies.
- i. Form working groups and panels subject to budgetary constraints and notification to the District Executive.
- j. Approve sales of land up to the value of £10,000.
- k. Play an enabling role by taking opportunities to provide services and benefits for the people of the area in collaboration with external agencies.
- l. Foster a close working relationship with Town and Parish Councils in the area.



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- m. Consult and consider the views of the public on area priorities and provide opportunities for public participation, working in collaboration with external agencies.
- n. Submit to the District Executive ideas for improvements to services or innovative ways of working which may be of interest or benefit to other Areas.
- o. Contribute towards the formulation of district-wide policies.
- p. Be responsible for the local area aspects of the Community Plan.
- q. The following decisions need to be referred to the District Executive: matters of policy which have district wide significance, matters that might have an impact on more than one area (planning matters will be referred to the Regulation Committee in accordance with agreed guidelines) expenditure not covered by an approved budget or within the approved capital programme, sales of land over £10,000.

3. Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee shall monitor and scrutinise the performance of the Council and its services and make recommendations on any issue for which the Council is responsible or which affects the local community including those services provided by outside agencies. The Committee will undertake or commission reviews of policy, including value for money checks and keep an overview of the Council's political management arrangements.

The Scrutiny Committee is not able to take decisions but makes recommendations to either the District Executive or the full Council.

There are three main elements to the work of the Committee:

- a. The Scrutiny Committee is able to "call in" decisions taken by the Executive or Area Committees but not implemented. It can ask the District Executive or Area Committee to re-consider its decision.
- b. The Committee is able to review the implementation of decisions and ask the District Executive or full Council to look at a particular area of policy in respect of which the decision was made.
- c. The Committee is able to undertake detailed reviews of issues either within or outside the council

Overview Commissions

An Overview Commission that comprises all of the non-executive members supports the Scrutiny Committee in undertaking reviews in line with the functions set out above.



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Reviews are undertaken on a 'Task and Finish' basis as directed by the Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Committee receives the final reports of the Overview Commissions along with regular updates.

All non-executive members support the committee and are invited to participate in reviews on a 'Task and Finish Project' basis as directed by the main Scrutiny Committee.

The Overview Commissions will be encouraged to use various review methods and to engage the wider community wherever possible. Relevant co-optees may be invited to participate in a Commission, bearing in mind the potential contribution of residents and partners.

The Commissions will meet informally and are not subject to the Access to Information Rules. As task and finish groups they will be able to meet and take evidence in public but this will not be a requirement. It will be for each Commission to decide its own working arrangements that best meet the needs of a particular review.

4. Audit Committee

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance, to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment and to oversee the financial reporting process.

The Audit Committee should review the Code of Corporate Governance seeking assurance where appropriate from the Executive or referring matters to management on the scrutiny function.

The terms of reference of the Audit Committee are:

Internal Audit Activity

1. To approve the Internal Audit Charter and annual Internal Audit Plan;
2. To receive quarterly summaries of Internal Audit reports and seek assurance from management that action has been taken;
3. To receive an annual summary report and opinion, and consider the level of assurance it provides on the council's governance arrangements;
4. To monitor the action plans for Internal Audit reports assessed as "partial" or "no assurance;"
5. To consider specific internal audit reports as requested by the Head of Internal Audit, and monitor the implementation of agreed management actions;
6. To receive an annual report to review the effectiveness of internal audit to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and the level of assurance it provides on the council's governance arrangements;

External Audit Activity



7. To consider and note the annual external Audit Plan and Fees;
8. To consider the reports of external audit including the Annual Audit Letter and seek assurance from management that action has been taken;

Regulatory Framework

9. To consider the effectiveness of SSDC's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and corruption arrangements and seek assurance from management that action is being taken;
10. To review the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and monitor associated action plans;
11. To review the Local Code of Corporate Governance and ensure it reflects best governance practice. This will include regular reviews of part of the Council's Constitution and an overview of risk management;
12. To receive reports from management on the promotion of good corporate governance;

Financial Management and Accounts

13. To review and approve the annual Statement of Accounts, external auditor's opinion and reports to members and monitor management action in response to issues raised;
14. To provide a scrutiny role in Treasury Management matters including regular monitoring of treasury activity and practices. The committee will also review and recommend the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy, MRP Strategy, and Prudential Indicators to Council;
15. To review and recommend to Council changes to Financial Procedure Rules and Procurement Procedure Rules;

Overall Governance

16. The Audit Committee can request of the S151 Officer, the Director – Support Services (the Monitoring Officer), or the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Services) a report (including an independent review) on any matter covered within these Terms of Reference;
17. The Audit Committee will request action through District Executive if any issue remains unresolved;
18. The Audit Committee will report to each full Council a summary of its activities.

5. Standards Committee

The purpose of the Standards Committee is to:-

- promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members;



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- advise, train or arrange to train Members and Co-opted Members of the Council on matters relating to the Authority's Members' Code of Conduct and wider propriety issues, including issuing guidance where appropriate;
- recommend the adoption or revision of any Council Codes of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members, and to monitor the operation of such code(s) of conduct;
- deal with the assessment and determination of complaints under the Members' Code of Conduct relating to Members and Co-opted Members (other than where the power to deal with such matters has been delegated to and exercised by the Monitoring Officer). Where the investigation finds evidence of a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and a local resolution is not appropriate or not possible, then a Hearing Panel of the Committee (comprising 3 voting members of the Standards Committee agreed by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Committee Chairman) will consider and decide the complaint;
- to take decisions in respect of a Member and Co-opted Member who is found on hearing to have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct;
- advise on the management of statutory and other registers of interest and gifts/hospitality received;
- advise the Council on possible changes to the Constitution (except the Council and Cabinet Schemes of Delegation) in relation the key documents and protocols dealing with members conduct and ethical standards

Note: the powers of the Committee apply in respect of the district and parish councils, except where stated.

6. Regulation Committee

The Regulation Committee shall determine applications for planning permission referred from the area committees in accordance with the approved guidelines set out in part 3 of the Council's Constitution. It shall also pass Resolutions in respect of significant Council applications for planning permission.

7. Licensing Committee

The Committee shall be responsible for those licensing functions listed in Part 3 of the Constitution as being the responsibility of the Committee. This will include licensing matters referred to it by officers in accordance with the Officer Scheme of Delegation. These include, but are not limited to, contested premises licences/ club premises certificates/ temporary event notices, and applications for private hire and hackney carriage licences where the officer considers the application should be determined by members. The Committee shall also be responsible for all the functions assigned to it under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005 and the Charities Act 2006.



8. Appointment Committee

The Committee shall make appointments to director level or deputy director level posts in accordance with the Human Resources Management Rules (as detailed in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution)

9. Appeals Panel

The Panel shall be constituted in line with the Council's Disciplinary Procedures.
