
Report of the Monitoring Officer – Appointments to Committees, Internal and Outside Boards and Panels and calendar of meetings

Executive Member: Councillor Bill Revans – Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Governance and Communications

Division and Local Member: All

Lead Officer: David Clark, Service Director- Governance Democratic and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed appointment of members to committee places/seats (see Paper A), the proposed appointment of members to Outside Bodies (see Paper B) and the proposed calendar of committee meetings for the 2024/25 municipal year (from the 2024 Annual General Meeting until the 2025 Annual General Meeting).

At its first Annual General Meeting in May 2023, the Council agreed the appointment of Chairs, Vice-Chairs, members and co-opted members to its committees and joint committees. Those approvals included setting aside the political balance (proportionality) rules for the Standards Committee and the four area-based planning committees. The Council also agreed appointments to various internal and outside bodies, boards and panels.

This report also seeks approval to the dates of Full Council and committee meetings for 2024/25 (see Paper C for details).

In accordance with the Constitution, Full Council is responsible for the appointment of Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members to committees and these appointments are usually agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Council:

Paper A

- (1) Notes the political balance of the Council and agreed the proposed allocation of committee places as set out in this report and its appendices;**
- (2) Agrees the terms of reference, size and quorum arrangements for all committees as set out in the Council's Constitution, this report and its appendices;**
- (3) Continues to endorse the recommendation of the political group leaders and agrees to continue to set aside the political balance rules for the Standards Committee and the four area-based Planning Committees and instead allocate places for those committees on the basis set out in Appendix 3;**
- (4) Approves the political group leaders' nominations for the appointment of Chairs, Vice-Chairs, members and co-opted members to the Council's committee and joint committees as set out in the Appointments Schedule (see Appendix 3);**
- (5) Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the appropriate political group leader, to make in-year changes to committee and joint committee appointments (excluding the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs) in accordance with the allocation of places to political groups by the Council and the wishes of the relevant political group leader.**

Paper B

(6) Agrees the appointment of members to internal, partnership and outside bodies for 2024/25 until the next Annual General Meeting, as set out in Appendix 1.

(7) Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the the political group leaders, to make in-year changes to internal, partnership and outside bodies appointments in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group leader.

Paper C

(8) approves the proposed calendar of meetings for Somerset Council from 22 May 2024 (set out in Appendix 1).

(9) Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to finalise and make any changes to the proposed meeting dates, times, meeting arrangements and meeting venues in consultation with the Chairs of the relevant committees.

3. Legal, Equalities and Financial Implications

3.1 These are as set out in Papers A, B and C to this report.

4. Background Papers

4.1 These are as set out in Papers A, B and C to this report.