

## **Report of the Monitoring Officer**

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Governance & Democratic Services

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### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out for the 2023/24 municipal year the proposed allocation and appointment of members to committee places/seats (see Paper A), the proposed appointment of members to Outside Bodies (see Paper B) and the Council's approval to the accuracy of minutes of several former committees of legacy district councils (see Paper C).

On 1 March 2023, the former County Council agreed, on behalf of the new Somerset Council, the appointments of Chairs, Vice-Chairs, members and co-opted members to 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 (see Paper A 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 agree 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;**
- (3) Continues to agree the recommendation of the political group leaders 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 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 2023/24 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 accuracy of the minutes of several former committee meetings of legacy councils as set out in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.**

- (9) Agree the case for exempt information for the minutes of the former Mendip District Council Audit Committee meeting on 22 March 2023 (Appendix 1), the Mendip District Council Asset Management Group meeting on 24 March 2023 (see Appendix 1), the Somerset Waste Board meeting on 10 February 2023 (see Appendix 3) and the Somerset Joint Waste Scrutiny meeting on 8 February 2023 (see Appendix 3) to be treated in confidence, as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.**
- (10) Agree to exclude the press and public from the meeting where there is any discussion at the meeting regarding the minutes of the former Mendip District Council Audit Committee meeting on 22 March 2023, or the former Mendip District Council Asset Management Group meeting on 24 March 2023, or Somerset Waste Board meeting on 10 February 2023 or the Somerset Joint Waste Scrutiny meeting on 8 February 2023 (to be treated as exempt information).**

## **5. Legal, Equalities and Financial Implications**

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

## **6. Background Papers**

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