

Corporate Policy Committee

Date of Meeting:	8 th June 2021
Report Title:	Appointments to Sub-Committees, Working Groups, Panels, Boards and Joint Committees
Report of:	David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance
Report Reference No:	CP/03/21
Ward(s) Affected:	No specific wards

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.** The Council at its annual meeting on 4th May 2021 approved the political representation on its main committees. The appointment of certain sub-committees, working groups, panels and boards is a matter for the relevant service committees. This report concerns those bodies which fall to be appointed by the Corporate Policy Committee or by the Committee in conjunction with other service committees. Where political proportionality is applicable, the agreed conventions and methods of calculation have been applied.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1.** That the Committee appoints the bodies referred-to in this report, and agrees the political representation on, and appointments to, them.

3. Background

A. Bodies which report to the Corporate Policy Committee

1. Constitution Working Group

The Constitution provides for the appointment of a Constitution Working Group of no more than 8.

Recommendation: That a working group of 8 members be appointed.

2. Community Governance Review Sub-Committee

The Constitution provides for the appointment of a Community Governance Review Sub-Committee of 7 members on a politically proportionate basis.

The Constitution Committee had originally appointed a Community Governance Review Sub-Committee of 7 members on a politically proportionate basis but had included, in addition, one member each from the Liberal Democrat and Real Independent Groups on a non-voting basis, resulting in a membership of 9: 3 Con, 2 Lab, 2 Ind, 1 LD, 1 RI.

Recommendation: It is recommended that this approach be continued.

3. Staffing Appeals Sub-Committee

This Sub-Committee will deal with various staffing-related appeals, such as appeals against dismissal and grievances.

Under the constitution, the membership of this Sub-Committee comprises 3 members appointed on an ad hoc basis, drawn from a pool of 10. Whilst the Sub-Committee itself does not need to be proportionate, the pool of 10 has previously been selected on a politically proportionate basis (4 Con: 3 Lab: 2 Ind: 1 LD).

Recommendation: It is recommended that this approach be continued.

4. General Appeals Sub-Committee

This Sub-Committee will deal with a range of appeals, such as school transport appeals.

Under the constitution, the membership of this Sub-Committee comprises 5 members appointed on an ad hoc basis, drawn from a pool of 10. Whilst the Sub-Committee itself does not need to be proportionate, the pool of 10 has previously been selected on a politically proportionate basis (4 Con: 3 Lab: 2 Ind: 1 LD).

Recommendation: It is recommended that this approach be continued.

5. Shared Services Joint Committee

This is a joint committee of Cheshire East Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council which oversees the management of those services which are provided on a Cheshire-wide basis to ensure effective delivery of such services and to provide strategic direction. Although it is a joint committee of two councils rather than a sub-committee of the Corporate Policy Committee, it does report to the Corporate Policy Committee and it falls to that Committee to appoint the nominees from Cheshire East. Each council appoints three of its elected members as its nominated members of the Joint Committee.

The Council's current representatives on the Joint Committee are Councillors Rhodes, Stott and Moran, and it is understood that there is general agreement that this representation should continue.

Recommendation: That the above members be appointed to the Shared Services Joint Committee.

B. Other Bodies to which the Corporate Policy Committee is required to make appointments

1. Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board

Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board is a joint board to which this Council appoints three councillors as voting members.

The agreed "Transitional Provisions" provide that the lead service committee in respect of this Board will be the Adults and Health Committee; and the three Council nominees to the Board will be formally nominated by the Adults and Health Committee, the Corporate Policy Committee, and the Children and Families Committee. There are no specific criteria which apply to the appointment.

Recommendation: That the Corporate Policy Committee nominate one member to the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. Joint Extra Care Housing Management Board

The Joint Extra Care Housing Management Board previously comprised three Portfolio Holders from each authority.

The Transitional Provisions provide that nominations for Cheshire East Council will be made by the chairs of the Corporate Policy Committee, Adults and Health Committee and Finance Sub-Committee.

Recommendation: That the Committee Chair be recommended to nominate one Member to the Board.

4. Implications of the Recommendations

4.1. Legal Implications

4.1.1. The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, made pursuant to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, make provisions in respect of the political group representation on a local authority's committees in relation to the overall political composition of the Council. The legislation applies to the decision-making committees and sub-committees of the Council.

4.1.2. The legislation requires that, where proportionality applies, and seats are allocated to different political groups, the authority must abide by the following principles, so far as is reasonably practicable:

4.1.2.1. Not all of the seats can be allocated to the same political Group (i.e. there are no single group committees).

4.1.2.2. The majority of the seats on the body are to be allocated to a political Group with a majority membership of the authority.

4.1.2.3. The total number of seats on all ordinary committees and sub committees allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.

4.1.2.4. The number of seats on each ordinary committee allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on full Council.

4.1.3 The proposals contained in this report meet the requirements of the legislation.

4.1.4 The 1990 Regulations require Political Group Leaders to notify the Proper Officer of the Groups' nominations to the bodies in question.

4.2. Finance Implications

4.2.1. There are no direct finance implications.

4.3. Policy Implications

4.3.1. There are no direct implications for policy.

4.4. Equality Implications

4.4.1. There are no direct implications for equality.

4.5. Human Resources Implications

4.5.1. There are no direct human resource implications.

4.6. Risk Management Implications

4.6.1. Failure to comply with the Act and Regulations when appointing its committee memberships would leave the Council open to legal challenge.

4.7. Rural Communities Implications

4.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

4.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

4.8.1. There are no direct implications for children and young people/Cared for Children.

4.9. Public Health Implications

4.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

4.10 Climate Change Implications

4.10.1. There are no direct climate change implications.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services and Governance Brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.