



# Borough of Telford and Wrekin

## Full Council

Thursday 25 May 2023

### Political Balance & Appointment to Committees and Boards for 2023/24

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Nathan England - Cabinet Member: Finance, Customer Services and Governance
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance
<b>Service Area:</b>	Policy & Governance
<b>Report Author:</b>	Richard Phillips - Service Delivery Manager, Legal & Democracy
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Full Council:-

- 1.1 notes the calculation of political balance following the May 2023 election results;
- 1.2 approves the reorganisation of Council committees outlined in this report;
- 1.4 appoints to the Committees and Boards, as shown at Appendix A of this report and tabled at the meeting (if any), for the 2023/24 Municipal Year, and approve the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair for each body;
- 1.6 confirms that review and approval of the Terms of Reference for each Committee and Board be delegated to the relevant Committee or Board;
- 1.5 authorises the Monitoring Officer to give effect to nominations to Committees and Boards notified to her in writing by Group Leaders; and

- 1.6 delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution to give effect to the changes outlined in this report.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 This report details the political balance calculations for Committees and Boards following the all-out May 2023 election. It also sets out the revised Committee structure for the Council and appointments of Members who will serve on those bodies. It further indicates the proposed nominees for Chair and Deputy Chair of each body.

## **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Annual Meeting of the Council will appoint such committees and boards as the Council considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are Cabinet functions; will agree the size of each Committee; and will appoint a Chair, Deputy Chair, Members and substitute Members (where appropriate) for each committee and board in accordance with political balance rules.

## **4.0 Summary of main proposals**

- 4.1 Following the election on 4 May 2023, the political balance of the authority has been updated and is as follows:-

Labour	36/54	70.4%
Conservative	8/54	14.8%
Liberal Democrats	6/54	11.1%
Independent	1/54	1.9%
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The various Committees and Boards to be appointed for 2022/2023 are shown at Appendix A, calculated in accordance with the political balance above.

- 4.2 As part of ensuring appropriate oversight of Governance within the Council, the creation of a Governance Committee is proposed. It will bring together those matters previously considered by the Standards and Constitution Committees and in addition, also have oversight of Member Development, which was formerly the remit of the Member Development Steering Group. By doing so, it is hoped that the synergies between the subject matters will ensure a more thorough and robust oversight of Governance across the Council and also further demonstrate the Council's commitment to Member Development.
- 4.3 Council is asked to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any necessary changes to the Constitution to ensure that the above changes are properly reflected in the Constituion.
- 4.4 Political balance rules have been applied where appropriate in terms of:

- (a) the allocation of seats to political groups on each individual Committee/Board; and
- (b) the overall number of seats allocated to each political group reflecting the relative size of each group as a percentage of the total number of Council members.

- 4.5 Group Leaders have been notified of the allocation of seats to the Committees/Boards, based on the principles set out at paragraph 4.5. Each political group has been asked to submit nominations to its allotted seats, and the proposed membership for each Committee/Board (including substitutes where appropriate) is shown at Appendix A, where known. The Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to make appointments to each Committee or Board following notification from Group Leaders of nominees.
- 4.6 Appendix A also shows the nominees for Chair of each body and for Deputy Chair of each body, for approval.
- 4.7 Council is also asked to re-assert delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to appoint Members to Committees and Boards in accordance with the wishes of the Group Leaders as notified in writing. This delegation avoids the necessity to refer each nomination to Council and it is effectively an administrative task. If the delegation is approved, the Monitoring Officer must give effect to the nomination, provided it is lawful and not contrary to the Council's own procedure rules or when the appointment is exercisable only by the Cabinet.
- 4.8 The Constitution requires Council to agree the Terms of Reference of all Committees and Boards. It is recommended that each Committee be authorised to review its own Terms of Reference.

## **5.0 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 The changes outlined in this report are aimed at ensuring good governance and proper decision making. Council could choose not to implement the changes, however for the reasons set out within the report it would appear sensible for Council to do so in order for it to carry out its business effectively. It is also a statutory requirement for Council to make appointments to Boards and Committees at its Annual Meeting.

## **6.0 Key Risks**

- 6.1 There are no risk associated with the recommendations contained within this report.

## **7.0 Council Priorities**

- 7.1 The recommendations in this report are aligned with the Council priority to be a community-focussed, innovative Council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

## **8.0 Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **9.0 Legal and HR Implications**

9.1 Full Council at its Annual General Meeting should make appointments to its Committees and Boards for the forthcoming municipal year. Council has the power to approve the recommendations contained within this report.

## **10.0 Appendices**

A Boards and Committees Membership 2023/24

## **16.0 Report Sign Off**

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Legal	16/05/2023	16/05/2023	RP