

County Council

Report Title:	Appointment of Committees and Chairmen
Meeting Date:	25 May 2017
Lead Councillor(s):	Councillor Colin Noble
Local Councillor(s):	All
Director:	Deborah Cadman OBE, Chief Executive
Assistant Director or Head of Service:	Tim Ryder, Assistant Director (Scrutiny and Monitoring) and Monitoring Officer
Author:	Tim Ryder e-mail: tim.ryder@suffolk.gov.uk telephone: 01473 264246

Brief summary of report

1. This report sets out the proposed number of seats on committees and the allocation of those seats to the political groups represented on the Council.

Action recommended

The Council is asked to agree:

- (a) the number of seats on committees as indicated in Appendices 1 to this report and Appendix A (tabled); and
- (b) the appointment of chairmen to those committees. Appendix B (tabled)

Reason for recommendation

2. The Council is required to comply with statutory requirements governing the allocation of committee seats.

Alternative options

3. The Council could decide to alter the number of seats available on each committee.

Who will be affected by this decision?

4. All councillors.

Main body of report

5. Meetings of committees and sub-committees are part of the formal decision-making structure of the Council and are one of the mechanisms by which the work of the Council proceeds.

6. The procedures for committees and sub-committees are governed by the Local Government Act 1972 and their political composition is subject to the rules laid down in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
7. The 1989 Act introduced the 'proportionality' rules. These rules are directed towards securing a political balance on the committees and sub-committees which reflects the overall composition of political groups on the Council.
8. The obligation to ensure that there is proportionality applies only to political groups. A political group must consist of at least two members who have indicated that they wish to form a group. There are three political groups represented on the Council – Conservative; Labour; and Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent. The Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent group includes 5 Liberal Democrats, 3 Greens, 3 Independents and one West Suffolk Independent.
9. There is no legal requirement for ungrouped councillors to be proportionally represented on committees.
10. The political composition of committees and sub-committees should reflect the position set out in the table below:

Group	Number of Councillors	Percentage (of 75 councillors)
Conservative	52	69.3
Labour	11	14.8
Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent	12	16.2

11. Appendix 1 to this report sets out the suggested number of seats on each committee. Appendix A will be tabled at the meeting and allocates those seats in accordance with the proportionality rules.
12. There are also other statutory committees which require specific appointments to be made by the Council and are outside the requirement for political proportionality of the Council. Specifically, these are the Police and Crime Panel for Suffolk and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board must include a councillor nominated by the Leader of the Council plus the Cabinet members for Health, Adult Care and Children's Services.
13. For the Police and Crime Panel, four county councillors are required. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel is required to have political proportionality across all seats (county and district and borough) in Suffolk. The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders have agreed that the County Council nominations will be made in order to achieve that political balance.
14. The Council is also asked to agree the appointment of the Chairmen of the committees, as detailed in the additional Appendix B will be circulated at the meeting.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

- a) Local Government Act 1972
- b) Local Government and Housing Act 1989

NUMBER OF PLACES

Committee	Seats
Audit Committee	7
Development Control Committee	14
Dismissals Appeals Committee	5
Education Transport Appeals Committee	3
Education Scrutiny Committee ⁽¹⁾	12
Governor Appointment Committee	9
Health Scrutiny Committee ⁽²⁾	5
Individual Cases Committee	3
Pension Fund Committee ⁽³⁾	7
Rights of Way Committee	14
Scrutiny Committee	12
Staff Appointments Committee	5
Standards Board ⁽⁴⁾	3
Fire Pension Board ⁽⁵⁾	2

(1) in addition there will be 4 co-opted members, of whom two will be parent governors, one will represent the Church of England and one will represent the Roman Catholic Church

(2) in addition there will be 7 co-opted members from the district and borough councils

(3) in additional there will be two representatives from the district and borough councils, and one from UNISON

(4) in addition to three councillors each from Babergh DC and Mid Suffolk DC

(5) in addition to two employee representatives