



19 May 2021

## COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### 1 Background

- 1.1 The Council must allocate seats on Committees and other prescribed bodies to give effect to the political balance rules. The rules for the allocation of seats are set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government Regulations 1990.
- 1.2 Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out the principles as follows:
- a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
  - b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
  - c) subject to paragraphs a) and b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
  - d) subject to paragraphs a) to c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.
- 1.3 In order to ensure that the majority group has the majority of members on each committee, it is necessary to increase the membership of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee, Appointments Committee and Pension Committee from six to seven members.
- 1.4 The chairs of the Scrutiny Committees and the Audit and Governance Committee are appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Council each year. The chairs of the other committees are appointed at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting.
- 1.5 The number of scrutiny committees has been expanded to include a Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Committee of seven members. This will have a particular remit

around governance ahead of the publication of the Government White Paper on Fire Service Reform.

- 1.6 The appointment of members to the Police and Crime Panel is also covered in this report.
- 1.7 An updated version of the report will be available ahead of the meeting showing the members nominated by the political groups for each committee.

**2 Recommendation 1: committee changes**

- 2.1 To increase the size of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee, Appointments Committee and Pension Committee from six to seven members to reflect the requirements of Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 2.2 To establish a new scrutiny committee of seven members for the Fire and Rescue Service.

**3 Recommendation 2: to appoint Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees and the Audit and Governance Committee**

Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee	
Children and Families Scrutiny Committee	
Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Environment Scrutiny Committee	
Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Committee	
Health Scrutiny Committee	
Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee	
Audit and Governance Committee	

**4 Recommendation 3: to determine committee membership**

**A2 Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee**

GCC members	Cons 7	Lib Dem 4	Lab 1	Green 1
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The membership of this committee should include chairs of the other scrutiny committees.

### A3 Scrutiny Committees

#### Children and Families Scrutiny

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
9	5	3		1

#### Economic Growth Scrutiny

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
7	4	2	1	

#### Environment Scrutiny

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
9	5	3		1

#### Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Committee

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
7	4	2	1	

#### Health Scrutiny

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
9	5	3	1	

**Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny**

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
9	5	2	1	1

**A4 Audit and Governance Committee**

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
11	6	3	1	1

**A5 Appeals Committee**

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
15	8	5	1	1

**A6 Appointments Committee**

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
7	4	2	1	

At least one member of the Appointments Committee must be a member of the Cabinet.

**A7 Constitution Committee**

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
9	5	3	1	

**A8 Planning Committee**

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
15	8	5	1	1

**A9 Regulatory Committees****Commons and Rights of Way Committee**

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
9	5	2	1	1

**Safety and Licensing Committee**

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
9	5	3	1	

**Traffic Regulation Committee**

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
9	5	2	1	1

**A10 Pension Committee**

GCC members	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Green
7	4	2	1	

**5 Recommendation 4: to appoint four members to the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel**

The Police and Crime Panel is a joint committee of the County Council and the six District Councils. It comprises four county councillors, one member from each district council and two independent non-elected members. Further top-up members are appointed if required to achieve political balance.

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