



## **CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 12 June 2023**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES 2023/24</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to enable the Constitution and Standards Committee to review the continuing need for various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties, and to appoint members and named deputies to serve on those (including the statutory committees and panels) that are to be retained in 2023/2024.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Constitution and Standards Committee is requested to authorise the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Statutory and Advisory Committees listed in the report and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 The Committee is required to appoint the membership of various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties, which fall under its remit at the start of each Municipal Year.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Other options considered include not appointed to the statutory and advisory bodies or appointing a different number of members.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **STATUTORY COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

- 3.1 The following statutory committees and panels, all of which have full delegated authority, were retained during 2022/2023.

#### **3.2 Standards Panel and Standards Appeals Panel**

Sub-Committees of between three (3) and five (5) members of the Constitution and Standards Committee with responsibility for arrangements under which decisions can be made on an allegation that a Member of the Council or its committees has breached the Members' Code of Conduct.

The Committee or a Panel may regulate, where necessary, its own procedures to deal with any matter arising in connection with its duties, provided that the procedures remain in accordance with the principles set out at Article 13 of this Constitution. This includes that, subject to any statutory rules or procedures detailed elsewhere, a Panel acting as a tribunal is permitted, when all evidence has been submitted and speakers (if any) have finished, will hold discussion in the presence of the speakers and, as appropriate and in compliance with the Access to information Procedure Rules, the public and press, and the decision making may thereafter be taken in private adjournment.

It is expected that decisions will then normally be announced to those present and remaining post-adjournment, at least in summary form, before a decision is issued in writing.

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES**

- 3.3 The following is a list of advisory and consultative bodies that were retained or created in 2022/2023 to assist the Committee in its work.

**(i). Members Support Steering Group**

(This group was established by the Committee on 24 February, 2021, by the merger of the former Member Support and Members' Equipment Steering Groups)

The role of the Group is to:

- provide cross-party strategic leadership to member learning, development, support so as to enable members to help deliver the Refreshed Wirral Plan 2021-2026 and its themes;
- provide cross-party strategic leadership to the member ICT offer to ensure that equipment, software and systems used by members enables them to effectively undertake their duties;
- Provide oversight on the development of the Member Portal;
- Ensure all members have the requisite skills, knowledge and attributes to be able to meet their varied duties and responsibilities;
- Actively promote, encourage and oversee member culture, development and support;
- Explore, research, gather insight, examine and develop and implement new innovative methods, approaches and initiatives to improve member culture, development and support.
- Drive continuous improvement in member culture, development and support within political groups.

In previous years the Steering Group has been made up of seven members. If Committee agree, for this municipal year that would mean a 3 (Lab) / 2 (Con) / 1 (Green) / 1 (Lib Dem) split based on the current group proportionality.

**(ii). Governance Working Group**

3.4 The Governance Working Group was set up as working group of members to consider constitutional and governance related matters in advance of reports and recommendations being submitted to the Constitution and Standards Committee.

3.5 Options for the appointment of members to the Governance Working Group vary due to the size of the Committee. The Committee may wish to resolve to:

- a) Appoint one member from each Political Group (4 Members: 1 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Green and 1 Lib Dem)
- b) Appoint the minimum number of members based on political proportionality and all-party representation (5 Members: 2 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Green and 1 Lib Dem)
- c) Appoint all 7 members to the Governance Working Group

The Committee are requested to indicate which of the options they wish to agree to. It will be for the Governance Working Group to agree their work programme at the first meeting, however there are a number of issues identified by the working group in the last municipal year and by the Monitoring Officer. These include:-

Review of the Policy Committees terms of reference  
The member/officer protocol  
Review of Financial/Contract procedure rules  
The role of and appointment of the Returning Officer  
Appointments to the Fostering Panel  
Development of a Parental Leave Policy

- 3.6 Appendix 1 to this report outlines all Statutory and Advisory Committee appointments for the 2022-23 municipal year.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is a requirement under the Council's Constitution to appoint Members to various panels, advisory committees and working parties.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT; STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 If the Council does not appoint to its statutory bodies there is a risk that it will fail to fulfil its statutory duties.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 It is for political groups to decide how they wish to allocate their committee places.

#### **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Dan Sharples**  
**Democracy Business Manager**

telephone: (0151) 666 3791  
email: danielsharples@wirral.gov.uk

## **APPENDIX 1**

Appointments for the 22/23 municipal year

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Constitution

### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Constitution and Standards Committee</b>	<b>23 June 2021</b>
<b>Constitution and Standards Committee</b>	<b>24 February 2021</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>28 September 2020</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>14 May 2019</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>15 May 2018</b>