



CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday 01 August 2024

REPORT TITLE:	APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES 2024/25
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND CORPORATE SERVICES

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 2024/25.

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 2023/24.

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 2023/24 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.

3.4 Options for the appointment of members to the Member Support Steering 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 Member Support Steering Group

(ii). Governance Working Group

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:

- d) Appoint one member from each Political Group (4 Members: 1 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Green and 1 Lib Dem)
- e) 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)
- f) Appoint all 7 members to the Governance Working Group

3.6 Appendix 1 to this report outlines all Statutory and Advisory Committee appointments for the 2024/25 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.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Constitution

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

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