

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

18 MAY 2023

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| Report Title | APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES |
| Purpose of Report | To confirm the membership of each Committee and update the allocation of seats following changes to political groups, the results of the by-election on 17 May 2023 and the requirements of the annual meeting. The allocation of seats will be updated in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, all changes to membership of committees and appointments will be with effect from 18 May 2023. |
| Decision(s) | The Council RESOLVES to appoint Councillors to the committees and positions set out in the report and appendix |
| Consultation and Feedback | The proposed appointments have been subject to consultation with the Group Leaders. |
| Report Author | Jenna Day, Senior Democratic Services & Elections Officer Email: jenna.day@stroud.gov.uk Hannah Emery, Corporate Policy & Governance Manager Email: hannah.emery@stroud.gov.uk |
| Options | Members may make alternative nominations to the places available on committees subject to compliance with the allocation rules. |
| Appendices | Appendix A – Nominations 2023/24 (To Follow) |

1. Political Composition

1.1 The Council is required by the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 to review the political balance on its committees on an annual basis and then in any circumstances set out in Regulations under the 1989 Act. Political balance should also be recalculated following changes to the membership of political groups.

1.2 Following the resignation of Councillor Bullingham, a by-election in the Painswick and Upton District Ward is scheduled for Wednesday 17 May 2023. The political balance will be recalculated following the publication of the election results and will be reported to the Annual Meeting on the 18 May 2023. The political balance calculations will be included in Appendix A and will be published on the 18 May 2023.

1.3 The Political Balance was last recalculated following changes to the political groups and was agreed at Council on the 20 October 2022. Since Council agreed the political seat arrangements there have also been further changes to the political group memberships.

1.4 The current political groups comprise the following Members:

| Conservative Group Councillors (16) | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Gordan Craig | Julie Job | Lorraine Patrick |
| Stephen Davies | Haydn Jones | Keith Pearson |
| Trina Davis | John Jones | Mark Ryder |
| Chris Evans | David Mossman | Haydn Sutton |
| Victoria Gray | Gill Oxley | Brian Tipper |
| Lindsey Green* | | |
| Community Independent Group Councillors (4) | | |
| Doina Cornell | Colin Fryer | Trevor Hall |
| Robin Layfield* | | |
| Green Group Councillors (13) | | |
| Beki Aldam | Jonathan Edmunds | Lucas Schoemaker |
| Martin Baxendale | Steve Hynd | Chloe Turner |
| Catherine Braun* | Chris Jockel | Tricia Watson |
| Martin Brown | Norman Kay | |
| Kate Crews | Martin Percy | |
| Independent Left Group Councillors (4) | | |
| Natalie Bennett* | Helen Fenton | Mattie Ross |
| Paula Baker | | |
| Labour Group Councillors (6) | | |
| Laurie Davies | Jenny Miles | Steve Robinson* |
| Jessie Hoskin | Nigel Prenter | Ashley Smith |
| SDC Liberal Democrat Group Councillors (3) | | |
| George James | Ken Tucker* | Rich Wilsher |

* Group Leader

Note: In addition to the above, there are four Independent Members, namely, Councillors Nigel Studdert-Kennedy, Nick Housden and Nick Hurst (known as 'Conservative - No Group') and Councillor Chris Brine. The Council also has one vacant seat. The vacancy will be filled following the by-election on 17 May 2023.

2. Committees

The committees which are subject to political balance requirements currently comprise the following:

| Committee | No. of Members on the committee |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Audit & Standards | 9 |
| Community Services & Licensing | 12 |
| Development Control | 12 |
| Environment | 13 |
| Housing | 12 |
| Strategy and Resources | 14 |

3. Allocations to committees subject to political balance requirements

The seats on each committee must be allocated to each political group as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

3.1 Due to the by-election on the 17 May 2023, changes to political balance and appointments to committees and other bodies will be provided in Appendix A which will be published on 18 May 2023.

3.2 Each political group was asked to provide its allocations for the committees. The nominations received by Democratic Services from Group Leaders will be reported to or otherwise made at the AGM.

4. Appointments to Other Bodies

4.1 Additional appointments will be made for the following bodies:

- Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel
- Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Working Group
- Constitution Working Group

4.2 Gloucestershire County Council passed a Motion regarding Violence Against Women and Girls on the 9 November 2022. The Motion asked local authorities to review the arrangements for appointments to the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel in order to seek a gender balance in future appointments (noting that there were just three women members out of 13 on the Panel). Nominations for the Police and Crime Panel are determined by Political Group Leaders who have been advised of the agreed Motion.

5. Performance Monitors

5.1 Performance Monitors will be appointed at the first meeting of the civic year for each of the Policy Committees. Performance monitors carry out a scrutiny role and are typically a member of the opposition political group or an independent Councillor. These appointed Members will examine the work of the Council and report back to Committee on the progress made against the Council plan.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources
Email: andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk

6.2 Legal Implications

The Council is required to appoint Councillors to committees in accordance with the proportionality rules.
Claire Hughes, Corporate Director (Monitoring Officer)
Email: claire.hughes@stroud.gov.uk

6.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

6.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.