

Appointment of Members to vacancies on various Council Committees

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Purpose of the Report

This report seeks to confirm the unfilled positions on the Licensing, Scrutiny, Standards and Audit Committees and Appeals Panel following the appointment of Councillors to various committees and working groups at Council on 19th May 2022.

Public Interest

Each year, the Council reviews the membership of its Committees, Boards and representation by Councillors on outside organisations. This report seeks to confirm the un-filled positions on some Committees

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- (1) The Council appoint one Councillor to the vacancy on the Licensing Committee for the municipal year 2022-23 (not required to be in political balance).
- (2) The Council note that the Leader will appoint a Liberal Democrat Councillor to the vacancy on the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2022-23.
- (3) The Council note that the Leader will appoint a Liberal Democrat Councillor to the vacancy on the Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2022-23.
- (4) The Council note that the Leader has appointed Councillor Wes Read to the vacancy on the Appeals Panel for the municipal year 2022-23.
- (5) The Council note that the Leader will appoint a Councillor to the vacancy on the Wincanton Regeneration Programme Board for the municipal year 2022-23.
- (6) The Council note that the Leader has appointed Councillor Mike Hewitson as Chairman of Audit Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022- 23.
- (7) The Council note that the Leader has appointed Councillor Brian Hamilton as Vice-Chairman of Audit Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022- 23.
- (8) The Council note that the Leader will appoint a Liberal Democrat Councillor to the vacancy on the Audit Committee for the municipal year 2022-23

Report Detail

The membership of committees and working groups for 2022/23 was approved at the Annual Council meeting on 19 May. Following that meeting, there were some unfilled positions on the Licensing Committee, Scrutiny Committee, Standards Committee and Appeals Panel. Also Councillor Martin Carnell has resigned from the Audit Committee and so a new Chairman is proposed and the vacancy is to be filled. This report seeks to confirm the appointments by the Leader of Council.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in agreeing the appointments in this report. There is a budget provision to cover the basic and special responsibility allowances of all Councillors.

The majority of Council meetings have been held on-line since April 2020 and there have been budget savings in travel allowances to attend meetings. The amount varies from month to month but is in the region of £1,000 to £1,400 per month.

Legal implications (if any) and details of Statutory Powers

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review the representation on committees and to allocate seats to political groups on the basis of the overall political composition of the Council.

Council Plan Implications

Council Plan 2020 – 2024 – Council Values:

Getting things done - Empowering dedicated and flexible employees and elected members focussed on delivery

Working collaboratively - Working with partners to enhance outcomes for our communities

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

Since April 2020, the use of Zoom software to hold virtual meetings has reduced the need to travel to attend Council meetings and therefore resulted in reduced carbon emissions from vehicles across the district.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no specific equality or diversity implications arising from the subject matter of this report.



<i>An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form has been completed in respect of the Proposal?</i>	Yes
<i>The Impact Relevance Check indicated that a full EIA was required?</i>	No
<i>If an EIA was not required please attach the Impact Relevance Check Form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of its findings in the comments box below.</i>	
<i>If an EIA was required please attach the completed EIA form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of the result of your Equality Impact Assessment in the comment box below.</i>	
Additional Comments	

Privacy Impact Assessment

No personal data is involved or processed as a result of this report.

Background Papers

The Council's Constitution – Parts 2 and 3
Annual reports to Council - Appointment of Member Level Bodies
Local Government and Housing Act 1989