

Membership of Committees – Appointment of new Councillors to the Audit and Standards Committees and changes to representation on Outside Bodies

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1. Purpose of the Report

To confirm several changes to Committee appointments following the appointment of Councillors to various committees at Council on 21st May 2015.

2. Public Interest

At their meeting on 21st May, Council agreed to an equal balance of Conservative and Liberal Democrat Councillors on the Audit and Standards Committees. This report confirms the wishes of the Conservative group to appoint to these committees, two changes in Liberal Democrat representation and nominations to represent SSDC on four outside organisations.

3. Recommendations

In accordance with Section 16 (1) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the duty therein to give effect to the wishes of the political group to which seats on any committee are allocated, the Council confirm that:-

1. Councillor Mike Beech be appointed to the Audit Committee.
2. Councillor Gye Dibben be appointed to the Standards Committee.
3. Councillor Carol Goodall replaces Councillor Cathy Bakewell as a member of the Audit Committee.
4. Councillor Sarah Dyke-Bracher replaces Councillor Mike Lock as the appointed SSDC representative to Access for All outside body.
5. Councillor Tim Inglefield replaces Councillor Derek Yeomans as the appointed SSDC representative to the South West Audit Partnership outside body.
6. Councillors be appointed to represent SSDC on the following outside organisations:

Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership	Carol Goodall
Somerset Water Management Partnership	Nick Weeks
Parrett Drainage Board	Nick Weeks Mike Lewis Jo Roundell Greene
Somerset Rivers Authority	Ric Pallister Jo Roundell Greene (substitute)

4. Report

The membership of committees and working groups for 2015/16 was approved at the Annual Council meeting on 21st May. At that meeting, it was agreed that the Audit Committee and Standards Committees would be appointed in equal political balance between the Liberal Democrat and Conservative groups.

The Conservative group have now indicated who they would like to appoint to these Committees and this report confirms their wishes.

Also, since the appointments were made, the Liberal Democrat group have indicated that they wish to replace the appointment of Councillor Cathy Bakewell with Councillor Carol Goodall on the Audit Committee and replace the appointment of Councillor Mike Lock with Councillor Sarah Dyke-Bracher as the appointed SSDC representative to Access for All outside body.

Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership

The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a Ministry of Defence led initiative, which operates in every area with a strong military presence. It is a partnership between the local armed forces, local authorities and voluntary sector. The Covenant itself is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the civilian community and the armed forces community. The aim of the Community Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces Community in their area, and nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community.

The Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership was established in summer 2011 and members include all local authorities, armed forces, NHS, businesses, education, voluntary sector and other groups representing serving and former members of the armed forces in Somerset.

A Portfolio Holder decision was taken in December 2011 to confirm our commitment and to appoint Councillor Ian Martin as the SAFCCP Champion for SSDC. It is now recommended that a Councillor with knowledge in this area is appointed as the new SSDC representative. Councillor Carol Goodall has asked to be considered for this position.

Somerset Water Management Partnership and Parrett Drainage Board

It was agreed at Council on 21st May 2015 that the appointment of representatives to the Parrett Drainage Board and the Somerset Water Management Partnership would be deferred for further discussion between the 3 Group Leaders as the appointments were key to the delivery of the Somerset Flooding Summit recommendations. The Group Leaders have now confirmed these appointments and the substitute for the position on the Somerset Rivers Authority.

5. Background Papers

Minutes of Council - 21st May 2015

Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant – Partnership Terms of Reference

Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant document

Armed Forces Community Covenant - Overview of Progress – Report to District Executive - March 2015.