

Cherwell District Council

Council

14 May 2019

Annual Council Business Report

Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To note the results of the 2 May 2019 district elections, note the constitution of Political Groups, note the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Executive for the Municipal Year 2019/20, and consider and agree the disbanding of the joint committees with South Northamptonshire Council and the suggested constitution of Committees for the Municipal year 2019/2020 and appoint representatives to the Oxfordshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel, the Oxfordshire Growth Board and the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel.

1.0 Recommendations

** The recommendations are also included in the relevant section of the report **

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the results of the District elections held on 2 May 2019.
- 1.2 To note the constitution of Political Groups and notification of Group Leaders.
- 1.3 To note the appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council, the membership of the Executive and the Executive Portfolios for 2019/20.
- 1.4 To disband the existing joint committees with South Northamptonshire Council: Joint Commissioning Committee; Joint Appeals Committee; Joint Scrutiny Committee and request the Director Law and Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly.
- 1.5 To agree the allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the political balance requirements as set out in Table 1 (addendum to report to follow).
- 1.6 To agree the allocation of seats on committees not subject to political balance requirements as set out in Table 2 (addendum to report to follow).

- 1.7 To appoint members (and where appropriate, substitute members) to serve on each of the committees and other bodies set out in Tables 1 and 2 in accordance with the nominations to be made by political groups (Appendix 2 - to follow).
- 1.8 To appoint a representative to the Oxfordshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.9 To appoint a representative to the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel.
- 1.10 To appoint a representative and substitute to the Oxfordshire Growth Board.
- 1.11 To appoint three representatives to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution requires that at the annual meeting, Council shall:
 - Note the results of the District Elections, if held, and the constitution of Political Groups and Group Leaders and elect the Leader of the Council if required
 - Conduct any business concerning the establishment of and appointments to the Executive, including the appointment of Deputy Leader and the allocation of functions to Lead Members
 - Conduct any business concerning the establishment of, and appointment to:
 - The Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - The Standards Committee
 - Such other Committees as the Council consider appropriate

3.0 Report Details

District Election Results

- 3.1 The following were elected for the Wards shown at the district elections held on 2 May 2019. All Councillors elected in the scheduled elections will serve a 4 year term, with the exception of one seat.
- 3.2 Following the resignation of former Councillor Alaric Rose, a vacancy in the Kidlington West ward was contested alongside the scheduled elections. The term of office for this seat is three years and the differing terms for this ward are indicated below.

| Ward | Elected |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote | Councillor Mike Bishop - Conservative |
| Banbury Calthorpe and Easington | Councillor Colin Clarke - Conservative |
| Banbury Cross and Neithrop | Councillor Hannah Banfield - Labour |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Banbury Grimsbury and Hightown | Councillor Perran Moon - Labour |
| Banbury Hardwick | Councillor Nathan Bignell - Conservative |
| Banbury Ruscote | Councillor Sean Woodcock - Labour |
| Bicester East | Councillor Richard Mould - Conservative |
| Bicester North and Caversfield | Councillor Jason Slaymaker - Conservative |
| Bicester South and Ambrosden | Councillor Nick Cotter - Independent |
| Bicester West | Councillor Fraser Webster - Independent |
| Cropredy, Sibfords and Wroxton | Councillor Doug Webb - Conservative |
| Deddington | Councillor Hugo Brown - Conservative |
| Fringford and Heyfords | Councillor Ian Corkin - Conservative |
| Kidlington East | Councillor Ian Middleton - Green |
| Kidlington West | Councillor Katharine Tyson – Liberal Democrat (elected for a 4 year term) Councillor Conrad Copeland – Liberal Democrat (elected for a 3 year term) |
| Launton and Otmoor | Councillor Tim Hallchurch - Conservative |

Recommendation

1.1 To note the results of the District Elections held on 2 May 2019.

Constitution of Political Groups

3.3 The Chief Executive will report on the notifications of the constitution of Political Groups received prior to the meeting and the appointments of Group Leaders.

3.4 Group Leaders have been appointed as follows:

Conservative Group: Councillor Barry Wood

Labour Group: Councillor Sean Woodcock

Independent Group: Councillor Les Sibley

Liberal Democrat Group: To be advised

Recommendation

1.2 To note the constitution of Political Groups and notification of Group Leaders.

Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive 2019/20

- 3.5 The Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood, will advise Council of his appointment of Deputy Leader and the Executive Portfolios for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

Recommendation

- 1.3 To note the appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council, the membership of the Executive and the Executive Portfolios for 2019/20.

Committee Appointments 2019/20

- 3.6 The current constitution of the Council (48 Members) is:

32 Conservative (67%)
9 Labour (19%)
4 Independent (8%)
2 Liberal Democrat (4%)
1 Green (2%)

- 3.7 As a consequence of Local Government Reorganisation in Northamptonshire, Cherwell District Council (CDC) and South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) have decided to end their joint working partnership. A programme of service separation is being undertaken, with proposals considered and endorsed by the Joint Arrangements Steering Group (JASG) with any formal decisions required being taken by the respective Personnel Committees at each council. There is therefore no longer any business for the Joint Commissioning Committee, Joint Appeals Committee and Joint Scrutiny Committee and it is proposed that these committees be disbanded and consequently removed from the Constitution and proportionality calculations. The informal JASG will continue and is not subject to the formal committee proportionality requirements.
- 3.8 At the July 2018 Council meeting, members agreed to develop joint working arrangements with Oxfordshire County Council (CDC and OCC). Two formal joint non-executive committees (Joint Personnel and Shared Services Committee and Joint Appeals Committee) and an informal partnership working group have been established between the two councils. The committees will be included in the proportionality calculations.
- 3.9 The proportionality calculations will be published as an addendum to this report.
- 3.10 Appendix 1 (to follow) sets out members (and where appropriate, substitute members) to serve on each of the committees and other bodies set out in Tables 1 and 2 (addendum to report to follow) in accordance with the nominations to be made by political groups.

Recommendations

- 1.5 To disband the existing joint committees with South Northamptonshire Council: Joint Commissioning Committee; Joint Appeals Committee; Joint Scrutiny Committee and request the Director Law and Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly.

- 1.6 To agree the allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the political balance requirements as set out in Table 1 (addendum to report to follow).
- 1.7 To agree the allocation of seats on committees not subject to political balance requirements as set out in Table 2 (addendum to report to follow).
- 1.8 To agree that the Constitution be amended to remove the requirement for named substitutes for Licensing Committee and the Assistant Director Law and Governance be requested to amend the Constitution accordingly.
- 1.9 To appoint members (and where appropriate, substitute members) to serve on each of the committees and other bodies set out in Tables 1 and 2 (addendum to report to follow) in accordance with the nominations to be made by political groups (Appendix 2 - to follow).

Appointment of Representatives

- 3.11 Council is asked to appoint a representative to the Oxfordshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The representative cannot be a member of the Executive. The 2018/19 appointed representative was Councillor Sean Gaul.
- 3.12 Council is asked to appoint a representative to the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel. The 2018/19 representative on the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel was Councillor Tony Ilott.
- 3.13 Council is asked to appoint a representative and substitute to the Oxfordshire Growth Board for the municipal year 2019/20.
- 3.14 Council is asked to appoint members to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel. The Scrutiny Panel comprises 18 councillors, three appointed annually by each constituent Council of the Growth Board. Executive members of the constituent councils shall not be members of the Scrutiny Panel. As the Scrutiny Panel is an informal committee it is not taken into account as part of the political balance calculations.
- 3.15 In 2019/20, the representatives were Councillor Neil Prestidge, Councillor Sean Gaul and Councillor Sean Woodcock with substitutes permitted from the relevant political party.
- 3.16 The Oxfordshire Growth Board (OGB) has established three sub-groups: OGB JSSP Sub-Group; OGB Infrastructure Sub-Group; and the OGB Housing Sub-Group. The terms of reference of the Growth Board (para 8.1) indicate that the elected representatives on the sub-groups will be appointed by the leaders of the respective Growth Board member Councils.

Recommendations

- 1.8 To appoint a representative to the Oxfordshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.9 To appoint a representative to the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel.

1.10 To appoint a representative and substitute to the Oxfordshire Growth Board.

1.11 To appoint three representatives to the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 The Council is required to note the results of the District Council elections, appoint a Leader (if required), agree the allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the political balance requirements and also on committees not subject to political balance requirements and to agree the appointments to each of the Committees in accordance with the nominations made by political groups.

5.0 Consultation

Group Leaders

Nominations and information from group leaders has been included in the report and appendices

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To amend the appointments to Committees.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

Comments checked by:

Adele Taylor, Executive Director Finance, 0300 003 0103, adele.taylor@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Legal Implications

7.2 It is a legal requirement for Council to agree proportionality after an election and appoint committees. It is for the Council Leader to appoint the Deputy Leader and the other Executive members, and to allocate Lead Member responsibilities.

Comments checked by:

Nick Graham, Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer, nick.graham@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Risk Implications

7.3 In ensuring the legal requirements are met risk to the authority is mitigated.

Comments checked by:
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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|---------------------|--|
| One | Committee Membership – to follow |
| Background Papers | |
| None | |
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