

Cherwell District Council

Council

19 May 2021

Annual Council Business Report

Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To note the results of the 6 May 2021 district elections, to note the constitution of Political Groups, to note the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Executive for the Municipal Year 2021/22, and consider and agree the suggested constitution of Committees for the Municipal year 2021/2022 and to appoint representatives to the Oxfordshire County Council Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel, the Oxfordshire Growth Board, the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel and Oxfordshire Growth Board advisory sub-groups.

1.0 Recommendations

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

Council is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the results of the District elections held on 6 May 2021.
- 1.2 To note the constitution of Political Groups and notification of Group Leaders (addendum to report to follow).
- 1.3 To note the appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council, the membership of the Executive and the Executive portfolios for 2021/2022.
- 1.4 To agree the allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the political balance requirements as set out in Appendix 2 (to follow).
- 1.5 To agree the allocation of seats on committees not subject to political balance requirements as set in Appendix 2 (to follow).
- 1.6 To appoint members (and where appropriate, substitute members) to serve on each of the committees in accordance with the nominations to be made by political groups (Appendix 3 - to follow).

- 1.7 To appoint a non-Executive representative to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.8 To appoint a representative and named substitute to the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel.
- 1.9 To appoint an Executive member representative and Executive member substitute to the Oxfordshire Growth Board.
- 1.10 To appoint three non-Executive representatives to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel.
- 1.11 To appoint an Executive member and Executive member substitute to each of the Oxfordshire Growth Board advisory sub-groups: Housing Advisory Subgroup, Infrastructure Advisory Subgroup, Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Subgroup and Environment Advisory Group.

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 Councillors were elected to district wards as set out below. All councillors elected in the scheduled elections will serve a three year term, to 6 May 2024, as result of the elections having been postponed from May 2020.

Ward	Elected	Party
Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote	Adam Nell	Conservative
Banbury Calthorpe and Easington	Kieron Mallon	Conservative
Banbury Cross and Neithrop	Matthew Hodgson	Labour
Banbury Grimsbury and Hightown	Andy Beere	Labour and Co-operative
Banbury Hardwick	John Donaldson	Banbury Hardwick
Banbury Ruscote	Mark Cherry	Labour and Co-operative

Bicester East	Sandy Dallimore	Conservative
Bicester North and Caversfield	Lynn Pratt	Conservative
Bicester South and Ambrosden	Dan Sames	Conservative
Bicester West	Les Sibley	Independent
Cropredy, Sibfords and Wroxton	George Reynolds	Conservative
Deddington	Bryn Williams	Conservative
Fringford and Heyfords	Patrick Clarke	Conservative
Kidlington East	Maurice Billington	Conservative
Kidlington West	Dorothy Walker	Liberal Democrat
Launton and Otmoor	Simon Holland	Conservative

Recommendation

1.1 To note the results of the District Elections held on 6 May 2021.

Constitution of Political Groups

3.3 The Chief Executive will report on the notification of the constitution of Political Groups received prior to the meeting and appointment of Group Leaders (to follow).

Recommendation

1.2 To note the constitution of Political Groups and notification of Group Leaders (to follow).

Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive 2021/2022

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 2021/22.

Recommendation

1.3 To note the appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council, the membership of the Executive and the Executive Portfolios for 2021/22.

Committee Appointments 2021/22

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

- 31 Conservative (65%)
- 9 Labour / Labour & Co-operative Party (19%)
- 4 Independent (8%)
- 3 Liberal Democrat (6%)
- 1 Green (2%)

- 3.7 The Council is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to review the political balance on its committees on an annual basis. Appendix 1 summarises how the rules operate.
- 3.8 Appendix 2 (to follow) will set out the initial arithmetical product of the rules for the Council's committees. The figures in brackets will show the adjustments which are necessary to achieve the balance across and within committees to comply with the rules. Appendix 2 (to follow) will also set out the allocation of seats not subject to the political balance requirements.
- 3.9 Appendix 3 (to follow) will set out Group nominations to serve on each of the committees in accordance with the political balance requirements.

Recommendations

- 1.4 To agree the allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the political balance requirements as set out in Appendix 2 (to follow).
- 1.5 To agree the allocation of seats on committees not subject to political balance requirements as set in Appendix 2 (to follow).
- 1.6 To appoint members (and where appropriate, substitute members) to serve on each of the committees in accordance with the nominations to be made by political groups (Appendix 3 - to follow).

Appointment of Representatives

- 3.11 Council is asked to appoint a representative to the Oxfordshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2021/2022. The representative cannot be a member of the Executive. The current appointed representative is Councillor Phil Chapman.
- 3.12 Council is asked to appoint a representative to the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2021/2022. The current appointed representative on the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel was Councillor Andrew McHugh. Councillor Tony Ilott is the current named substitute.
- 3.13 Council is asked to appoint members as the council's representative (by precedent the Leader) and substitute to the Oxfordshire Growth Board for the municipal year 2021/2022. In 2020/2021, Councillor Barry Wood was the council's representative and Councillor George Reynolds his named substitute.
- 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. Three non-Executive members should be appointed by each constituent council having regard to the council's own political balance. It is a requirement at Panel meetings that at least one member from each of the partners is in attendance for the meeting to be quorate.
- 3.15 In 2020/21, the representatives were Councillor Lucinda Wing, Councillor Tom Wallis and Councillor Sean Woodcock with substitutes permitted from the relevant political party.

- 3.16 The Oxfordshire Growth Board (OGB) has three advisory sub-groups: Housing Advisory Subgroup, Infrastructure Advisory Subgroup, Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Subgroup and Environment Advisory Group. The membership of each sub-group includes an Executive member of each partner authority and an Executive member substitute. It is custom that the Executive member whose portfolio most closely fits the role of the group is appointed to the respective sub-group.

Recommendations

- 1.7 To appoint a non-Executive representative to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.8 To appoint a representative and named substitute to the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel.
- 1.9 To appoint an Executive member representative and Executive member substitute to the Oxfordshire Growth Board.
- 1.10 To appoint three non-Executive representatives to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel.
- 1.11 To appoint an Executive member and an Executive member substitute to each of the Oxfordshire Growth Board advisory sub-groups: Housing Advisory Subgroup, Infrastructure Advisory Subgroup, Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Subgroup and Environment Advisory Group

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
Committee appointments (Appendix 2 - to follow)

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. This is not recommended as nominations have been submitted by Group Leaders.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Comments checked by:

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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:

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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

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: N/A

Community Impact Threshold Met: N/A

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

Appendix number and title

- Appendix 1 – Local Government & Housing Act 1989 – Political Balance
- Appendix 2 - Allocation of seats on committees subject to political balance requirements and seats on committees not subject to political balance requirements (to follow)
- Appendix 3 – Committee appointments (to follow)

Background papers

None

Report Author and contact details

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