



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and Date of Committee	COUNCIL – 31 JANUARY 2024
Subject	COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY
Wards Affected	None
Accountable Member	Councillor Andy Graham – Leader of the Council. Email: andy.graham@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Andrea McCaskie – Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer). Email: andrea.mccaskie@westoxon.gov.uk
Report Author	Andrew Brown – Business Manager, Democratic Services. Email: andrew.brown@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	For Council to ratify and note the appointments made to committees under delegated authority following the Council meeting on 27 September 2023 where Council reviewed the political proportionalities on committees and agreed to change the structure of overview and scrutiny committees.
Annexes	Annex A – Committee Membership January 2024
Recommendation(s)	That Council Resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ratify and note the appointments to committees made by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the wishes of political groups.2. Appoint one Liberal Democrat member to the Constitution Working Group, increasing the size of the working group to 7 members (nominated member to be confirmed at the meeting).3. Note that there is currently one vacant Liberal Democrat seat on the Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee (for appointment by the Licensing Committee) but that all other vacancies on Committees and Sub-Committees have been filled.
Corporate Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Together for West Oxfordshire

Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Group Leaders were asked to nominate members to vacant seats allocated to their groups.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Council is asked to ratify and note the appointments made to committees under delegated authority. Council is also asked to increase the size of the Constitution Working Group from 6 to 7 members and to appoint a Liberal Democrat member to that seat to ensure that the membership of the working group better reflects the political balance of the Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Council on 27 September 2023 reviewed the political proportionalities on committees and agreed to replace the three previous overview and scrutiny committees with a single committee. This resulted in a number of vacancies on committees which have been appointed to by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority, in accordance with the wishes of political groups (Constitution Part 5A, rule 2.4).
- 2.2 The appointments were due to be ratified and noted at the next ordinary meeting of Council on 29 November 2023. However, not all vacancies had been filled at that time and further vacancies had been created by changes to the membership of the Executive. This report was delayed to the 31 January 2024 meeting to enable Council to ratify all of the appointments made under delegated authority in one go.

3. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- 3.1 Following the 27 September 2023 Council meeting 24 members were appointed to the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the current membership for that committee is shown in Annex A.
- 3.2 Other vacancies that have arisen from the review of political proportionalities or since then have also been filled under delegated authority. The one exception is a Liberal Democrat seat on the Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee which was formerly allocated to Councillor Mathew Parkinson and remains vacant. This seat can be appointed to at the next meeting of the Licensing Committee.
- 3.3 For completeness the current membership of all committees, sub-committee and working groups is set out in Annex A.

4. CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP

- 4.1 Working Groups are informal bodies that are not subject to the political proportionality rules that apply to formal committees and sub-committees. However, it is good practice for the membership of working groups to broadly reflect the overall political balance of the Council.
- 4.2 One member of the Constitution Working Group, Councillor Mathew Parkinson, has changed political groups (from Liberal Democrat to Labour) since that working group was appointed at the Annual Council meeting. This has had the effect of changing the political proportionalities on that working group from the seat allocations agreed at the Annual Council meeting which closely reflected the political balance of the Council.

4.3 It is recommended that a second Liberal Democrat member is appointed to the working group, increasing its size from 6 to 7 members. This will ensure that the membership of the working group again closely reflects the political balance of the Council.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1 The appointments made under delegated authority reflected the wishes of political groups, as required.

5.2 Council could decide to not appoint an additional member to the Constitution Working Group for the remainder of the municipal year. However, it would be good practice for the membership of that working group to better reflect the political balance of the Council.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Council has a duty to appoint Members to Committees in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 There is a risk that if committees and sub-committee are not properly appointed this could result in a delay in decision making for the Council or increase the risk of decisions being successfully challenged.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

9.1 There are no impacts on equalities.

10. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no climate or ecological implications.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None.

(END)