

## Slough Borough Council

<b>Report To:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Appointments to Committees and Panels
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	Stephen Taylor, Monitoring Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kunwar Khan, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Appendices:</b>	None

### 1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 This report seeks Council's approval to appoint to vacancies and to note changes to membership of Committees and Panels since the Annual Meeting of Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

#### Recommendations:

Council is recommended to resolve:

(a) That the following changes to Committees and Panels be agreed:

- i. Appointments Committee – Councillor Smith to be appointed to the committee in place of Councillor Manku; and Councillor Matloob to be appointed to the vacant seat allocated to the Labour Group.
- ii. Appeals Committee – Councillor Iftakhar Ahmed to be appointed to the committee in place of Councillor Rana; and Councillor Gahir to be appointed to the vacant seat allocated to the Labour Group.
- iii. Appeals Committee – Councillor Ejaz Ahmed to be appointed chair of the committee in place of Councillor Rana.
- iv. Investigating & Disciplinary Committee – Councillor Qaseem to be appointed to the vacant seat allocated to the Labour Group.
- v. Corporate Parenting Panel – Councillor Tomar to be appointed to the panel in place of the Lead Member for children's services who will continue to attend the panel as a participating observer; and
- vi. Corporate Parenting Panel – that Council confirms that the panel be comprised of 6 elected members in line with the proportionality principles agreed by Annual Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and that the terms of reference of the panel and Constitution be amended accordingly.

(b) That the following changes to Committees made under Procedure Rule 1.2 (vi) be noted:

- i. Planning Committee – Councillor Mann has filled the vacancy following the resignation of Councillor Hulme from the committee.

(c) That the following appointments of the Leader of the Council to the Slough Wellbeing Board be noted:

- i. Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Improvement & Recovery (Councillor Smith); and
- ii. Lead Member for Health, Social Care & Wellbeing (Councillor Wright)

**Reason:**

To ensure all seats on committees are filled in accordance with all legal and constitutional requirements, and in line with the wishes of political groups regarding the seats allocated to them.

**Commissioner Review**

Commissioners have reviewed and made no comment on the report.

**2. Report**

**Introductory paragraph**

2.1 At the Annual Meeting of Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 the Council agreed the establishment of committees for the 2023/24 municipal year and the Members appointed to each committee. A small number of changes are required to meet legal and constitutional requirements for certain committees and to fill any vacant seats of committees.

2.2 A summary of changes and reasons is set out as follows:

(a) The agreement of Council is sought for the following changes in accordance with the nominations from political groups:

- i. **Appointments Committee** – two nominations are required. It is a legal and constitutional requirement that at least one member of the Executive is a member of the committee. At the point nominations were being sought for committees in the lead up to Annual Council it was uncertain which members would be appointed to the Cabinet. No members of the Cabinet were appointed to the committee at Annual Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023. To resolve this Councillor Manku has resigned from the committee and it is proposed that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Smith, be appointed to the vacant Conservative seat. In accordance with political proportionality, Annual Council allocated three seats on the committee to the Labour Group, however, only two nominations were submitted. Councillor Matloob has been nominated by the Labour Group to fill their vacant seat on the committee.

- ii. **Appeals Committee** – As with the Appointments Committee at least one member of the Executive (not the Leader or Lead Member(s) with responsibility for HR or Finance) must be appointed to the committee. No members of the Executive were appointed at Annual Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Councillor Rana has resigned from the committee and it is proposed that Councillor Iftakhar Ahmed be appointed to the vacant Conservative seat. There is one vacant Labour seat on the committee and it is proposed that Councillor Gahir fills this vacancy.
  - iii. **Appeals Committee** – the resignation of Councillor Rana from the committee creates a vacancy for chair and it is proposed that Councillor Ejaz Ahmed be appointed as chair.
  - iv. **Investigating & Disciplinary Committee** – There is one vacant seat on the committee which is allocated to the Labour Group. The group has nominated Councillor Qaseem to fill the vacancy.
  - v. **Corporate Parenting Panel** – Members are asked to approve the appointment of Councillor Tomar to the Conservative seat in place of Councillor Kelly, who as Lead Member for children’s services will continue to attend the panel as a participating observer in line with the panel’s terms of reference.
  - vi. **Corporate Parenting Panel** – The current terms of reference states that there be 7 councillors on the panel. Members will recall that 6 members were appointed to the panel at the Annual Meeting in consequence of the political proportionality calculations consequent on the May elections and consistent with the changes to other council bodies. Council is asked to confirm that it agrees to amend the terms of reference of the panel to retain a membership of 6 in line with other Council bodies.
- (b) **Planning Committee** – since Annual Council a vacancy arose on the Planning Committee following the resignation of Councillor Hulme from the committee. Council Procedure Rule 1.2 (vi) permits such casual vacancies to be filled under delegated authority upon the nomination of the political group which holds the vacant seat. The Labour Group nominated Councillor Mann to the vacant seat with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and this was reported as a Significant Decision and published on the Council website on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Council is therefore requested to note this decision.
- (c) **Slough Wellbeing Board** – the Board is the statutory Health & Wellbeing Board established under the Health & Social Care Act 2012 which prescribes a core statutory membership that includes at least one elected representative nominated by the Leader of the Council. The Council is asked to note that the Leader has appointed the following elected members to the Board:
- Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Improvement & Recovery (Councillor Smith); and
  - Lead Member for Health, Social Care & Wellbeing (Councillor Wright)

## **Options considered**

*Option 1 – Agree to make the appointments as recommended in Section 1 (Recommended).*

This option ensures all seats on committees are filled in accordance with legal and constitutional requirements and the wishes of political groups.

*Option 2 – Do not agree to make the appointments as recommended in Section 1 (Not recommended).*

It is a requirement for at least one Cabinet member to be on certain staffing committees such as the Appointments Committee, Appeals Committee and Investigating & Disciplinary Committee. Two of these committees do not currently have a Cabinet member on the committee and not agreeing to make the appointments would continue the anomaly. Any alternative nominations to those put forward by the political groups would need to be in accordance with overall seat allocations agreed at Annual Council and therefore by the political groups that hold those seats to ensure the rules of political proportionality for local authority committees are followed.

### **3. Implications of the Recommendation**

#### *3.1 Financial implications*

3.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations.

#### *3.2 Legal implications*

3.2.1 The recommendations within this report meet legal requirements (primarily the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations). The proposals have no workforce implications.

The rules for the allocation of seats are set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the 1989 Act) and the Local Government Committee and Political Group Regulations 1990. The Council has an obligation to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements for political proportionality in relation to the allocation of seats and the nominations to them where members are organised into different political groups. Should the Council wish to not apply the political proportionality requirement, then it may only do so in accordance with section 17 of the 1989 Act and provided that no member of the Council votes against.

### **4. Background Papers**

None