



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 12 May 2022
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

All members of Dorset Council are requested to attend this meeting of the Full Council.

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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Agenda

Page No

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect the Chairman of Council for 2022/23.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

To elect the Vice-chairman of Council for 2022/23.

3. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. MINUTES

5 - 16

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2022.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their decision councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of

the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.

If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Chairman of Council.

7. ELECTION OF LEADER OF COUNCIL

To elect the Leader of Council for 2022/23.

8. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF COUNCIL, CABINET/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AND LEAD MEMBERS

To note the Deputy Leader, Cabinet membership/Portfolio Holders and Lead Members as appointed by the Leader of Council.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS FROM THE LEADER OF COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBERS

To receive any announcements and reports from the Leader of Council and members of the Cabinet.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

A period of 30 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to questions and statements on the business of the Council in the following order:

- (a) Questions and statements from Town and Parish Councils;
- (b) Questions and statements from those living or working in the Dorset Council area;

A person or organisation can ask either 2 questions, or 2 statements or 1 question and 1 statement at each meeting. No more than 3 minutes shall be allowed for any one question or statement to be asked/read.

The full text of the question or statement must be received by 8.30am on Monday 9 May 2022.

Details of the Council's procedure rules can be found at:
[Council Procedure Rules](#)

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

A period of 15 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to petitions in accordance with the council's petitions scheme.

A period of 15 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to deputations in accordance with the council's constitution.

The petitions scheme and procedures relating to deputations can be

viewed at:
[Council Procedure Rules](#)

12. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

To receive questions submitted by councillors. The deadline for receipt of questions is 8.30am on Monday 9 May 2022.

13. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, JOINT PANELS AND BOARDS AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

17 - 40

To receive a report by the Team Leader for Democratic Services.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr Noc Lacey-Clarke and seconded by Cllr Les Fry. Supported by Cllrs John Worth, Val Potheary, Tony Ferrari, Kate Wheller, Cherry Brooks, Mike Parkes, Spencer Flower, Rob Hughes, Susan Cocking, Toni Coombs, Graham Carr-Jones, Sherry Jespersen, Ray Bryan, Simon Christopher, Barry Goringe, Carole Jones, Andrew Kerby, Andrew Parry, Jane Somper, David Shortell and Paul Harrison.

We must always support our democracy by ensuring the rights to peaceful protest are respected. However, the behaviour of two climate protesters at Full Council on the 14 April 2022 ruined the potential for an active debate by elected members, prevented any further amendments to the motion being put forward and encroached on the safety of members and officers of this council. The security of those in public office has very largely been self-policed through common decency and respect for the rule of law. Recent events across the country and in this Council chamber have caused concern and anxiety for the safety of those in public life who, abide by the principles of democracy and are elected to represent the interests of the people of Dorset.

Security measures will now need to be stepped up to protect elected members and officers of this council from a repeat of any unauthorised public access to the council chamber, which will sadly be at a cost to the local taxpayer.

MOTION:

That members of Dorset Council condemn the behaviour of those who disrupted the Full Council meeting on Thursday 14 April.

15. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items of business which the Chairman has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall

be recorded in the minutes.

16. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph x of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

There is no scheduled exempt business.



DORSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2022

Present: Cllrs Rod Adkins, Tony Alford, Jon Andrews, Mike Barron, Pete Barrow, Shane Bartlett, Pauline Batstone, Belinda Bawden, Derek Beer, Richard Biggs, Dave Bolwell, Alex Brenton, Cherry Brooks, Piers Brown, Ray Bryan, Andy Canning, Graham Carr-Jones, Simon Christopher, Kelvin Clayton, Susan Cocking, Tim Cook, Toni Coombs, Jean Dunseith, Beryl Ezzard, Tony Ferrari, Spencer Flower, Les Fry, Simon Gibson, Barry Goringe, David Gray, Matthew Hall, Paul Harrison, Jill Haynes, Brian Heatley, Ryan Hope, Rob Hughes, Nick Ireland, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Andrew Kerby, Paul Kimber, Rebecca Knox, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Howard Legg, Robin Legg, Cathy Lugg, Laura Miller, Louie O'Leary, Jon Orrell, Emma Parker, Mike Parkes (Vice-Chairman), Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Val Potheary (Chairman), Byron Quayle, Molly Rennie, Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Maria Roe, David Shortell, Jane Somper, Andrew Starr, Gary Suttle, Clare Sutton, David Tooke, Bill Trite, David Walsh, Peter Wharf, Kate Wheller, Sarah Williams and John Worth

Apologies: Cllrs Robin Cook, Janet Dover, Mike Dyer, Ryan Holloway, Stella Jones, David Morgan, Julie Robinson, Roland Tarr, David Taylor and Gill Taylor

Also present:

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships), Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Team Leader) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

74. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

75. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

76. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced the sad death of Honorary Alderman, Tina Roebuck. She invited Councillor Nick Ireland to pay tribute to her.

77. Public Participation - Questions and Statements

Public questions, statements and the responses from the Leader of the Council or the appropriate portfolio holder are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

78. Public participation - petitions and deputations

There were no petitions or deputations.

79. Announcements and Reports from the Leader of Council and Cabinet Members

The Leader of Council advised members that his bulletin would be published following the meeting and areas that would be included were as follows:

- The Dorset Together network and Dorset Council's response to the Ukrainian crisis
- NHS lease of South Walks House
- Dorset Local Plan – meetings with Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
- Dorset Centre of Excellence – opening of Coombe House

Councillors asked questions with regard to support provided associated with the Ukrainian crisis and opportunities for members to visit Coombe House.

80. Questions from Councillors

A question was received from D Gray. A copy of the question and the response is attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

81. Appointment of Harbour Committee Co-optees

The Chairman of the Harbours Committee introduced a report which sought the approval of two new co-opted independent members to the Harbours Committee.

It was proposed by M Roberts seconded by R Hughes

Decision

That Richard Tinsley and Philip Thicknesse be appointed as Co-opted Independent Members of the Harbours Committee, in line with the nominations of the Harbours Committee's Appointments Panel.

82. Meeting Arrangements and the Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillors considered recommendations made by the Audit and Governance Committee with regard to meeting arrangements and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

M Hall, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee proposed recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 5 as set out in the supplement to the agenda and these were seconded by R Biggs.

R Knox, Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board thanked the Audit and Governance Committee for their consideration of these issues and endorsed the recommendations.

Decision

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board should meet informally online as its usual way of doing business.
2. That as a matter of course and for the duration of their appointment the co-opted members of the Health and Wellbeing Board should be given a dispensation from attending meetings in person.
3. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Health and Wellbeing Board at informal online meetings, to make all decisions within the terms of reference of the Board.
5. That the above be subject to a review after 1 year.

R Biggs, Vice-chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee proposed recommendation 4 as set out in the supplement to the agenda and as set out below and this was seconded by S Cocking:

4. That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority:
 - (a) In exceptional circumstances and after consultation with the relevant chair, to convene informal online meetings of the Full Council, the Cabinet or any committee or sub-committee.
 - (b) After consulting members at informal online meetings to make any decision (save those that cannot by law be exercised by an officer) taking into account the views expressed by Members about the decision that they would have been minded to make had it been possible to hold a formal decision making meeting in person.

Views were expressed by members both against and in support of the recommendation. M Hall noted that there had been differing views expressed by members of the Audit and Governance Committee and this was the reason for dealing with the recommendation separately.

In accordance with procedure rule 19.5, a recorded vote was taken.

Those who voted in favour of the recommendation:-

Cllrs: P Batstone, B Bawden, D Beer, R Biggs, S Cocking, R Hughes, P Kimber, J Orrell and M Rennie.

Those who voted against the recommendation:-

Cllrs: A Alford, J Andrews, M Barron, P Barrow, S Bartlett, D Bolwell, A Brenton, C Brooks, P Brown, R Bryan, A Canning, K Clayton, T Cook, T Coombs, J Dunseith, B Ezzard, T Ferrari, S Flower, L Fry, S Gibson, B Goringe, D Gray, P Harrison, J Haynes, B Heatley, R Hope, N Ireland, S

Jespersen, C Jones, A Kerby, R Knox, N Lacey-Clarke, H Legg, C Lugg, L Miller, L O'Leary, E Parker, M Parkes, A Parry, M Penfold, B Pipe, V Potheary, B Quayle, B Ridout, M Roberts, M Roe, D Shortell, J Somper, A Starr, G Suttle, D Tooke, D Walsh, P Wharf, K Wheller, S Williams and J Worth.

Those who abstained:-

Cllrs: R Adkins, G Carr-Jones, S Christopher, M Hall, R Legg, C Sutton and B Trite.

Following a recorded vote, 9 for, 56 against and 7 abstentions, the recommendation was **LOST**.

83. **Notification of Urgent Decision**

The Leader of Council introduced a report which provided the Council with notification of an urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Council's procedural rules, and relating to entering into a 'safety valve' agreement with the Department for Education.

It was noted that on the advice of the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 officer, the Chairman of the People and Health Scrutiny Committee had agreed that it was impractical to defer the decision and that the decision should be made on the grounds of urgency. In addition, the Chairman had agreed that the decision was so urgent, that under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, it should be exempted from the potential to be called-in by the committee.

The Leader noted that a point raised with regard to additional funding required, would be considered and a response provided to members.

84. **Notice of Motion**

The following motion was proposed by C Sutton and seconded by M Roe and supported by: Cllrs: L Fry, D Beer, A Canning, P Kimber, N Ireland, R Hughes, B Heatley, B Ezzard, J Orrell, K Wheller, A Starr, M Rennie, A Brenton, K Clayton, S Jones, D Tooke and H Legg.

Notice of Motion

At this council's meeting on 15th February, the Leader was asked whether Dorset Council intends to play its part in addressing the climate crisis by prohibiting new attempts to exploit fossil fuel resources here in Dorset. Cllr Ray Bryan replied that: "Government has not revoked any of the petroleum exploration licences issued in Dorset or elsewhere, and National Planning Policy does not indicate that Mineral Planning Authorities should stop planning for oil and gas extraction. This means that we cannot simply prohibit all fossil fuel exploitation in the area but must consider each proposal on its merits".

Even if all the commitments made at COP26 in Glasgow last year are honoured, expert studies predict a rise of at least 2.7°C in global temperatures. Former Chief Scientific Advisor to the Government Professor Sir David King says, "What we do over the next three to four years [will] determine the future of humanity. We are in a very very desperate situation".

In this context, cross-party support for this motion would further underscore the commitment which Dorset Council has already shown to playing its part in protecting current and future Dorset residents, and those across the globe.

"The motion:

- Dorset Council will lobby national government urgently, strongly, at every opportunity and at all levels to revise the Minerals section of the National Planning Policy Framework to enable Dorset (and other) Planning Authorities to decline planning permissions on the grounds of climate impact alone if they so wish *and*
- Dorset Council will lobby the Local Government Association to do the same."

A number of views were expressed by members both in support and against the motion.

In accordance with procedure rule 19.5, a recorded vote was taken.

Those who voted in favour of the recommendation:-

Cllrs: J Andrews, P Barrow, S Bartlett, B Bawden, R Biggs, D Bolwell, A Brenton, A Canning, K Clayton, S Cocking, T Cook, B Ezzard, L Fry, D Gray, M Hall, B Heatley, R Hope, R Hughes, N Ireland, P Kimber, R Legg, H Legg, J Orrell, M Rennie, M Roe, A Starr, C Sutton, D Tooke, K Wheller and S Williams.

Those who voted against the recommendation:-

Cllrs: R Adkins, A Alford, M Barron, P Batstone, C Brooks, P Brown, R Bryan, G Carr-Jones, S Christopher, T Coombs, J Dunseith, T Ferrari, S Flower, S Gibson, B Goringe, P Harrison, J Haynes, S Jespersen, C Jones, A Kerby, R Knox, N Lacey-Clarke, C Lugg, L Miller, L O'Leary, E Parker, M Parkes, A Parry, M Penfold, B Pipe, V Potheary, B Quayle, B Ridout, M Roberts, D Shortell, J Somper, G Suttle, B Trite, D Walsh, P Wharf and D Worth.

Those who abstained:-

Cllrs: There were no abstentions.

Following a recorded vote, 30 for, 41 against and 0 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

85. **Notice of Motion**

The following motion was proposed by S Flower seconded by L O'Leary and supported by: Cllrs C Jones, B Quayle, G Suttle, M Parkes, J Somper, T

Ferrari, D Walsh, G Carr-Jones, P Harrison, R Adkins, C Lugg, R Cook, J Dunseith, S Jespersen and E Parker.

Notice of Motion

To move that:

1. Mindful of the current experience of global conflict and uncertainty, Dorset Council urges the Government to introduce an energy policy with the principal objective of securing permanent UK energy self sufficiency from as early a date as possible, utilising whatever forms of energy generation sourced from within the UK are necessary to this end. The Council calls on the Government still to meet its declared 2050 net zero carbon target, through a continuous reduction in the reliance on fossil fuels and by strategies designed to alter present patterns of energy demand and consumption;
2. In the shorter term, the Council urges the Government to introduce flexibilities when considering the need for national energy self sufficiency. This will recognise the serious, long lasting national security implications of the instability that accompanies the present but unavoidable need to import energy, and which is also a principal driver in the cost of living crisis now facing this country;
3. Dorset Council strongly recommends the Government to include in the forthcoming Planning White Paper a review of the Minerals section of the NPPF, in order that Planning Authorities may have due and proper regard to the implications of climate change;
4. The Council calls for the Local Government Association to reinforce the national case for changes that will enable Local Planning Authorities to have significantly greater influence in the determination of planning applications relating to the extraction of minerals in their areas.

At 8.22pm, the Chairman adjourned the meeting due to a disturbance in the Council Chamber.

The meeting of the Full Council was moved to another meeting room to which members of the public could attend. The Chairman re-started the meeting at 8.52pm.

The Chairman announced that she would move to the vote in respect of the item.

In accordance with procedure rule 19.5, a recorded vote was taken.

Those who voted in favour of the recommendation:-

Cllrs: R Adkins, A Alford, J Andrews, M Barron, S Bartlett, P Batstone, C Brooks, P Brown, R Bryan, G Carr-Jones, S Christopher, S Cocking, T Coombs, J Dunseith, T Ferrari, S Flower, L Fry, S Gibson, B Goringe, P Harrison, J Haynes, S Jespersen, C Jones, A Kerby, R Knox, C Lugg, L

Miller, L O'Leary, E Parker, M Parkes, A Parry, M Penfold, B Pipe, V Potheary, B Quayle, B Ridout, M Roberts, D Shortell, J Somper, G Suttle, B Trite, D Walsh, P Wharf and J Worth.

Those who voted against the recommendation:-

Cllrs: B Bawden, K Clayton, B Heatley, R Hughes, P Kimber, J Orrell, A Starr, C Sutton and K Wheller.

Those who abstained:-

Cllrs: P Barrow, R Biggs, A Brenton, A Canning, T Cook, B Ezzard, D Gray, M Hall, N Ireland, H Legg, M Rennie.

Following a recorded vote, 44 for, 9 against and 11 abstentions, the motion was **CARRIED**.

86. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

87. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

APPENDIX 1 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

**Full Council
14 April 2022**

Questions and Statements submitted for the Public Participation Period

Question – submitted by Jane Ashdown

The Council has recently hired Hyas Associates to engage in master planning for the proposed DOR 13 development included in the current draft Local Plan. This development of 4,000 houses north of Dorchester is being pursued as a “Garden Community” following the Council’s successful bid to join the Homes England Garden Communities programme. The government guidance on garden communities (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/garden-communities>) draws attention to the need to assess viability of a garden community and specifically notes that the following actions should be taken:

review scheme viability at the plan-making stage to test deliverability and inform policy development

consider retesting viability at the master planning stage, and when development details become more refined

When will these tests of viability be undertaken and when will the findings from these viability tests be published and available for public consideration?

Response by Cllr David Walsh

Consultants have been commissioned to undertake viability testing for the whole Local Plan, and they will work with Hyas in respect of the North of Dorchester site. The results of the viability work will be made available at the 'publication' stage of plan preparation, when a revised plan is published and there is a further opportunity for people to comment, before the plan is submitted for examination. The programme for the local plan is currently being reviewed and so we do not have a date set for this stage.

Statement – submitted by Giles Watts

Councillor Flower, my name is Giles Watts and I am representing the “Dorset Deserves Better” Campaign. We are a non-political, Dorset-based organisations with the aim of persuading Dorset Council to re-think the draft Local Plan. We laid out the basis for our request to you in an open letter sent on 17th January and currently have the support of 41 community-based organisations and 16 town or parish councils representing over 68,000 Dorset Residents (about 18% of the county).

We thank you for the open exchange we have had on this subject via email. We are encouraged by many of the things you have said publicly – that you seek a Local plan which is right for the people of Dorset and which promotes sustainability rather than chasing housing targets and which recognises the ambitions of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEES). We also welcome your approach to ministers for various exemptions and protection while a new plan is being built.

However, the current situation is perilous. All existing local plans are now technically out-of-date and the presumption in favour of development is starting to be applied and there is no guarantee the government will respond quickly or in full to your requests. This has created a situation of great uncertainty and risk. Uncertainty in your plans and the risk of pre-emptive and uncontrolled development that will not provide many of the things that Dorset needs such as: affordable and social housing, developments to grow our economy with green jobs, reduction of our carbon emissions and the restoration and protection of the environment.

For these reasons, we urge your Council address the following three issues as soon as possible:

1. Be transparent about the scope and timetable for the new Local Plan, and make sure that it is robust even if concessions are not forthcoming from central government. This should include a detailed analysis of last year's consultation exercise and the publishing of all evidence underpinning the Local Plan.
2. Put in place options to prevent a breakdown in the planning process and reduce the risk of pre-emptive development while the new Plan is being developed.
1. Start a process of public engagement to involve local organisations in rethinking and rebuilding the Local Plan.

Our Alliance members are keen to support this process and to meet with you soon to discuss how we may work together to support the development of a new Local Plan. Indeed, an early meeting would do much to allay the uncertainties and to create a more powerful route to a better future for the people of Dorset.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

APPENDIX 2 - QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

**Full Council
14 April 2022**

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question – submitted by Cllr David Gray

Since the press reports about the level of executive pay within Dorset Council and the recent resident survey results suggesting that only 37% of residents in the Dorset Council area think they get 'Value for Money' from Dorset Council.

Is it time during this phase of transformation and in our final 2 years of this Council to revisit the Senior Management structure and remuneration packages to gauge whether they are fit for purpose.

Response by Cllr Spencer Flower

Thank you, Cllr Gray, for this question, which seems to conflate two main issues that are not, in my opinion directly connected. You refer to the Resident Survey that was carried between October and December last year, and as Cllr Gray will know we publish information on all of our senior salaries at the budget full council meeting in February, but this was not reported by the local media until the TPA produces its annual article in April. I note that you voted for the Annual Pay Policy Statement.

The 2022/23 Council budget was approved by the Councillors on this full council in February this year with 61 out of 69 members who were present voting in favour of it, including yourself Cllr Gray. The budget was approved following an unprecedented 22 hours of member engagement, briefing, scrutiny and discussion. At no point during these discussions was the issue of the cost of, or structure of, the senior management raised by you or your group, so I am surprised that 14 days into the new financial year that this is being raised at full Council now – maybe a bit of opportunistic politicking being played at the expense of hard working officers – of which I am not a fan – indeed I see that the local Liberal Democrats have taken out a paid for Face Book advert that reproduces the local newspaper article on senior salaries and suggests “now we know the reason for high council tax and car parking charges”. I have to say I wonder if the Lib Dems were actually taking part in the same budget process as I was, to show such a lack of understanding of our budget and poor personal judgement in placing such a comment? The reason for increased council tax is clear, additional money into Adult Social

Care £12.5M; Children's Services £2.7M; Housing £0.75M; Place Services £6.8M.

Need I remind members that we brought together six former councils into one just over three years ago – with the aim being to protect services, and we have done that. It has meant reducing expenditure on senior management (£10 million saved each and every year since) to reinvest into front line services to protect the vulnerable in our society, the very youngest and the oldest and those who just need a helping hand. Clearly we have more to do so that people understand the services that we provide in order that they can make better value judgements – but this is something Councillors as Community Leaders can do – not just chuck rocks in my opinion at the officers who work under our collective political leadership.

I often hear people say “what do I get for my Council Tax”, which gives me the opportunity to remind people that Council Tax is just that, a tax, and is not a payment for services rendered. However, we deliver over 450 different services, which many people take for granted on a daily basis from the waste and recycling service that is visible, to the highways and footpaths, we drive, walk and cycle on, the environmental health teams that ensure if you eat out the food is prepared safely, the trading standards teams to protect you from scams and poor standards, the planning and building control teams, the countryside management and stewardship, the housing team, our revenues and benefits team supporting those in need and of course our adult social care and children's services team, supporting, protecting, caring and safeguarding our most vulnerable. Much of this work might only be visible to those in receipt of it – but that does not mean we don't need to do it, and it has to be paid for.

That said, the structure of the Senior Management, and indeed of the organisation, is kept under continuous review both by the Cabinet at a senior level and on a whole organisation basis which is the responsibility of the Chief Executive (who is the Head of Paid Service), just last week the posts of Corporate Director of HR and OD, and the head of the chief executive office were deleted, and the post holders made redundant as we continuously move resources to where they are needed (i.e. Climate Change which is a priority now). But our senior leaders, who work incredibly hard in challenging circumstances leading a very large and diverse organisation with 4613 colleagues, are delivering against the political budget that we, the full council, set them. Their pay is set by using national benchmarks and agreed by us at full council – any increase in salary is negotiated nationally and applied locally – Senior leaders received a 1.5% increase in pay, no bonuses, no lease cars, no incremental points, but 1.5%. When appointing we are doing so in competition with a national search for talent – and I for one will always keep this under review to ensure we have the right people at the right pay in order to deliver for Dorset.

In summary – we do and are continuously looking at the structure of the organisation, and have made recent changes that have reduced the number of officers on the Senior Leadership Team – but Cllr Grey the 1.5% increase in pay for our most Senior Leaders (all other staff received 1.75%) from last

year is most certainly not the reason that council tax and car parking charges have been increased – perhaps I can remind him of the budget that he VOTED FOR and the additional money put into Adult Social Care – to meet the needs of our residents at their time of need – these costs go up because we have more older people living in Dorset, care needs are getting more complex and the cost of providing that care is increasing every year too; can I remind him of the additional resources we have put in to Children’s Services (judged as Good across the board with Outstanding Leadership I might add by OFSTED) that are keeping our children safe and providing the right education for our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; can I mention the additional resources put into our Highways team to invest in our roads and infrastructure to keep the county and its residents and economy moving. I could go on – but I think everyone gets the picture.

This is a large and complex multi-million-pound business and needs good leadership, both political and managerial. I believe we have that and am disappointed in any politicians who seek to take aim at officers rather than looking at the decisions we rightly make as politicians elected to represent our communities on Dorset Council.

Duration of meeting: 6.30 - 9.00 pm

Chairman

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Full Council

12 May 2022

Appointments to Committees and election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report Author: Susan Dallison
Title: Team Leader Democratic Services
Tel: 01305 252216
Email: susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

Full Council is asked to review the allocation of committee seats in line with the political balance rules, and in accordance with the Council's Constitution make appointments to committees, joint panels and boards at the Annual Meeting of Council in line with the nominations from Political Group Leaders.

Full Council is also asked to delegate authority to Political Group Leaders to make in-year changes to committee appointments and to elect the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the ordinary committees.

Recommendation:

- (a) That the allocation of committee seats and the appointments to committees, joint panels and boards, as nominated by the Political Group Leaders, be approved for 2022/23 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 & 3;
- (b) That delegated authority be given to Political Group Leaders to make in-year changes to committee, panel and board appointments;
- (c) That the nominations for committee Chairmen and Vice-chairmen for 2022/23 be approved as set out in Appendix 4.

Reason for Recommendation:

To comply with the Dorset Council Procedural Rules (as set out in the Constitution) [Link to Constitution](#)

1. Political Groups and Percentage Entitlement

- 1.1 Where the membership of Dorset Council is divided into political groups the Council is required to review and allocate the total number of seats on ordinary committees in accordance with the strength of each political group.
- 1.2 On 3rd May 2022, formal notification was received from Cllr Kate Wheller that she was no longer a member of the ALL Group and would be serving as an independent member on Dorset Council. Taking this change into account Dorset Council is currently divided into 4 political groups, (Conservative, Liberal Democrat, ALL and Green), plus 1 Labour and Co-operative member and 1 independent member.
- 1.3 The number of members of each political group and the percentage entitlement to the overall number of committee seats on ordinary committees is as follows:

Conservative- 43 members (52.44% entitlement)

Liberal Democrat – 28 members (34.15% entitlement)

ALL – 4 members (4.87% entitlement)

Green – 5 members (6.09% entitlement)

Cllr Paul Kimber, Labour & Co-operative (1.2% entitlement)

Cllr Kate Wheller, Independent (1.2% entitlement)

2. Allocation of Committee Seats and Appointments to Committees

- 2.1 The number of seats on ordinary committees (Appendix 1) are allocated to each political group in the same proportion as the overall size of each political group, as far as is practicable. This excludes appointments to the Cabinet, which are made by the Leader of Council, and any other panel or board where the political balance rules do not apply such as the Health and Well Being Board. In addition to appointments to Cabinet the Leader of Council is also entitled to appoint up to 6 members of the controlling group as Executive Lead members and these appointments will be reported to the Full Council on 12 May 2022.
- 2.2 Where a political group has the majority of seats on the Council, it must also have, where practicable, a majority of on each individual committee to which appointments are made. This means that the Conservative Group, with 52.44% of seats on the Council is entitled to the majority of seats on all ordinary committees, where this is not possible to achieve a pragmatic

approach has been taken, for example on the allocation of seats to the planning committees and the Licensing Committee.

- 2.3 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out the 4 principles that must be followed as far as reasonably practicable when working out political proportionality:

(a) *Preventing domination by a single group*: That not all the seats on a committee should not be allocated to the same political group:

(b) *Ensuring a majority group enjoys a majority on all committees*: If one political group has a majority in the Full Council, that political group should have a majority on each committee:

(c) *Aggregating all committee places and allocating fair shares*: Subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the ordinary committees of an authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total number of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and

(d) *Ensuring as far as practicable fairness on each committee*: Subject to (a) and (c) above, the number of the committee seats which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that committee as is borne by the number of members of the group to the membership of the authority.

- 2.4 Full Council may waive the political balance rules for any committee(s) where the Council wishes to appoint an alternative number of members from political groups. In order for political balance to be waived no member must vote against the motion, an objection by a single member would make to necessary to apply strict proportionality. This report assumes that the Council does not want an alternative arrangement to that prescribed in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

3. **Nominations Joint Panels and Boards**

- 3.1 In addition to making appointments to the Council's ordinary committees, there are a number of joint panels and boards to which Dorset Councillors are appointed, including the Pension Fund Committee, Joint Public Health Board, Dorchester Markets Joint Panel and Joint Archives Advisory Board. There may be some changes to the future membership of the Joint Archives Advisory Board (JAAB), Dorset Council currently appoints 4 members (2 Conservative and 2 Liberal Democrats) to the JAAB but Schedule 5, para 5 of the new Inter Authority Agreement sets out that each Council in future will appoint 3 members to the Board. If the new Inter Authority Agreement is agreed by Cabinet on 17 May 2022 then the reduction in membership will need to be agreed in consultation with Group Leaders and in accordance with political proportionality; the new

membership will be 2 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat (relevant portfolio holder plus 2 other members).

- 3.2 Full Council is asked to approve the allocation of seats to joint panels and boards as set out in Appendix 3.

4. **Appointment of Committee Chairmen and Vice-chairmen**

- 4.1 In accordance with committee terms of reference as set out in the Constitution the appointment of committee Chairmen and Vice-chairmen will take place at the Annual Meeting of Council unless Full Council agrees alternative arrangements. Under the current governance arrangements set out in the Constitution the Leader of Council will be the Chairman of Cabinet and the Deputy Leader of Council will be the Vice-chairman of Cabinet.

- 4.2 The list of nominations for committee Chairmen and Vice-chairmen is set out in Appendix 4 for approval.

5. **Financial Implications**

Chairmen of Committees receive a Special Responsibility Allowance in accordance with the Dorset Scheme of Members' Allowances.

6. **Climate Implications**

No direct implications.

7. **Well-being and Health Implications**

No direct implications.

8. **Other Implications**

None.

9. **Risk Assessment**

- 9.1 **HAVING CONSIDERED:** the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

10. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

11. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Allocation of committee seats

Appendix 2 – Political Group nominations to committees

Appendix 3 – Political Group nominations to joint panels and boards

Appendix 4 – Nominations for committee Chairmen and Vice-chairmen

12. **Background Papers**

None.

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Committee	Conservative Group 43 Members 52.44 of seats	Liberal Democrat Group 28 Members 34.15% of seats	Green Group 5 Members 6.09% of seats	ALL Group 4 Members 4.87% of seats	Un-grouped 2 Members 2.43%
	No. of seats	No. of seats	No. of seats	No. of seats	No. of seats
People & Health Overview (10)	6	4	0	0	0
People & Health Scrutiny (10)	6	3	1	0	0
Place & Resources Overview (10)	6	4	0	0	0
Place & Resources Scrutiny (10)	6	4	0	0	0
Audit & Governance (10)	6	3	1	0	0
Appeals (15)	7	5	1	1	1
Harbours (6)	3	2	0	1	0
Licensing (15)	7	5	1	1	1
Pension Fund (5)	3	2	0	0	0
Strategic & Tech Planning (12)	6	4	1	1	0
Northern Area Planning (12)	6	4	1	1	0
Eastern Area Planning (12)	6	4	1	1	0
Western & Southern Planning (12)	6	4	1	1	0
Total seats	74	48	8	7	2

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**ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS
POLITICAL GROUP NOMINATIONS - 2022/23**

PEOPLE & HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee size: 10

Allocation of seats: Cons 6, Lib Dem 4

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to Cabinet

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to the People & Health Scrutiny Committee

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Mike Parkes
Conservative	Pauline Batstone
Conservative	Cathy Lugg
Conservative	Tony Alford
Conservative	Jean Dunseith
Conservative	Rebecca Knox
Liberal Democrat	Ryan Holloway
Liberal Democrat	Beryl Ezzard
Liberal Democrat	Stella Jones
Liberal Democrat	Pete Barrow

PEOPLE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee size: 10

Allocation of seats: Cons 6, Lib Dem 3, Green 1

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to Cabinet

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Robin Cook
Conservative	Bill Pipe
Conservative	Mary Penfold
Conservative	Louie O'Leary
Conservative	Piers Brown
Conservative	Belinda Ridout
Liberal Democrat	Gill Taylor
Liberal Democrat	Molly Rennie
Liberal Democrat	Nick Ireland
Green	Jon Orrell

PLACE & RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee size: 10

Allocation of seats: Cons 6, Lib Dem 4

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to Cabinet

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to the Place & Resources Scrutiny Committee

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Carole Jones
Conservative	Val Potheary
Conservative	Toni Coombs
Conservative	Sherry Jespersen
Conservative	Tony Alford
Conservative	Les Fry (ALL)
Liberal Democrat	Maria Roe
Liberal Democrat	Roland Tarr
Liberal Democrat	Ryan Hope
Liberal Democrat	Andrew Starr

PLACE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee size: 10

Allocation of seats: Cons 6, Lib Dem 4

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to Cabinet

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Rod Adkins
Conservative	Piers Brown
Conservative	Bill Trite
Conservative	David Shortell
Conservative	Mark Roberts
Conservative	Barry Goringe
Liberal Democrat	Shane Bartlett
Liberal Democrat	Jon Andrews
Liberal Democrat	David Tooke
Liberal Democrat	Andy Canning

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**Committee size: 10****Allocation of seats: Cons 6; Lib Dem 3; Green 1*****No member of this committee shall also be appointed to Cabinet***

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Simon Christopher
Conservative	Bill Pipe
Conservative	Barry Goringe
Conservative	Bill Trite
Conservative	Rod Adkins
Conservative	Susan Cocking (ALL)
Liberal Democrat	Matt Hall
Liberal Democrat	Richard Biggs
Liberal Democrat	Robin Legg
Green	Belinda Bawden

APPEALS COMMITTEE**Committee size: 15****Allocation of seats: Cons 7; Lib Dem 5; Green 1, ALL 1, Lab 1**

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Bill Pipe
Conservative	Rod Adkins
Conservative	Paul Harrison
Conservative	Emma Parker
Conservative	Julie Robinson
Conservative	Louie O'Leary
Conservative	Mike Barron
Liberal Democrat	Howard Legg
Liberal Democrat	Molly Rennie
Liberal Democrat	Dave Bolwell
Liberal Democrat	David Morgan
Liberal Democrat	Tim Cook
Green	Belinda Bawden
ALL	John Worth
Lab	Paul Kimber

HARBOURS COMMITTEE**Committee size: 6 Councillors, 4 Lay members****Allocation of seats: Cons 3; Lib Dem 2; ALL 1**

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Mark Roberts
Conservative	Louie O'Leary
Conservative	Mary Penfold
Liberal Democrat	Sarah Williams
Liberal Democrat	David Gray
ALL	Rob Hughes

LICENSING COMMITTEE**Committee size: 15****Allocation of seats: Cons 7; Lib Dem 5; Green 1, ALL 1, Independent 1**

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Emma Parker
Conservative	Cathy Lugg
Conservative	Paul Harrison
Conservative	Barry Goringe
Conservative	Julie Robinson
Conservative	Mike Dyer
Conservative	Susan Cocking (ALL)
Liberal Democrat	Jon Andrews
Liberal Democrat	Derek Beer
Liberal Democrat	David Taylor
Liberal Democrat	David Morgan
Liberal Democrat	Sarah Williams
Green	Brian Heatley
ALL	Les Fry
Independent	Kate Wheller

STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**Committee size: 12****Allocation of seats: Cons 6; Lib Dem 4; Green 1, ALL 1,*****This committee will be made up of 4 members from each of the 3 Planning Area Committees (unless political balance requirements necessitate otherwise)***

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Robin Cook
Conservative	Sherry Jespersen
Conservative	Mike Dyer
Conservative	Belinda Ridout
Conservative	Jean Dunseith
Conservative	Mary Penfold
Liberal Democrat	Shane Bartlett
Liberal Democrat	David Tooke
Liberal Democrat	Alex Brenton
Liberal Democrat	Dave Bolwell
Green	Kelvin Clayton
ALL	John Worth

NORTHERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE**Committee size: 12****Allocation of seats: Cons 6; Lib Dem 4; Green 1, ALL 1**

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Sherry Jespersen
Conservative	Mary Penfold
Conservative	Belinda Ridout
Conservative	Carole Jones
Conservative	Val Potheary
Conservative	Emma Parker
Liberal Democrat	Stella Jones
Liberal Democrat	Matt Hall
Liberal Democrat	Tim Cook
Liberal Democrat	Jon Andrews
Green	Brian Heatley
ALL	Les Fry

EASTERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE**Committee size: 12****Allocation of seats: Cons 6; Lib Dem 4; Green 1, ALL 1**

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Toni Coombs
Conservative	Mike Dyer
Conservative	Barry Goringe
Conservative	Bill Trite
Conservative	Julie Robinson
Conservative	Robin Cook
Liberal Democrat	Shane Bartlett
Liberal Democrat	Alex Brenton
Liberal Democrat	David Tooke
Liberal Democrat	David Morgan
Green	Mike Barron (Cons)
ALL	John Worth

WESTERN & SOUTHERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE**Committee size: 12****Allocation of seats: Cons 6; Lib Dem 4; Green 1, ALL 1**

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	David Shortell
Conservative	Jean Dunseith
Conservative	Louie O'Leary
Conservative	John Worth (ALL)
Conservative	Bill Pipe
Conservative	Kate Wheller (Ind)
Liberal Democrat	Nick Ireland
Liberal Democrat	Dave Bolwell
Liberal Democrat	Sarah Williams
Liberal Democrat	Paul Kimber (Lab)
Green	Kelvin Clayton
ALL	Susan Cocking

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE**Committee size: 5****Allocation of seats: Cons 3; Lib Dem 2*****Not more than 2 members being also appointed to the Cabinet***

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Mark Roberts
Conservative	Peter Wharf
Conservative	Simon Christopher
Liberal Democrat	Andy Canning
Liberal Democrat	Howard Legg

DORCHESTER MARKETS JOINT PANEL

Committee size: 8

Allocation of seats: Cons 4, Lib Dem 3, 1 Seat to ALL or Green

2 should represent wards wholly or mainly within the area of the former Dorchester Borough Council (except where such appointment would result in an appointee being a member of the town council)

Political Group	Nomination
Conservative	Simon Gibson
Conservative	Laura Miller
Conservative	Jane Somper
Conservative	Mary Penfold
Liberal Democrat	Roland Tarr
Liberal Democrat	Nick Ireland
Liberal Democrat	David Bolwell
ALL or Green	John Worth

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Appointments to Joint Panels and Boards - Appendix 3

Shared Lives (2)	Nominations
Conservative	Carole Jones
Liberal Democrat	Beryl Ezzard

Corporate Parenting Board (7)	
Conservative	Kate Wheller (Ind)
Conservative	Carole Jones
Conservative	Andrew Kerby
Conservative	Cathy Lugg
Liberal Democrat	Stella Jones
Liberal Democrat	Richard Biggs
Liberal Democrat	Ryan Holloway

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority (4)	
Conservative	Rebecca Knox
Conservative	Bryon Quayle
Liberal Democrat	Peter Barrow
Liberal Democrat	Richard Biggs

Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership Board (2)	
Conservative	Jane Somper
Liberal Democrat	Roland Tarr

Dorset Coast Forum (2)	
Conservative	Mark Roberts
Liberal Democrat	David Bolwell

Dorset Farms Liaison Panel (6)	
Conservative	Mark Roberts
Conservative	Mary Penfold
Conservative	Pauline Batstone
Liberal Democrat	Alex Brenton
Liberal Democrat	Ryan Holloway
ALL	Les Fry

Dorset Fostering Agency Panel (2)	
Conservative	Cathy Lugg
Liberal Democrat	David Taylor

Appointments to Joint Panels and Boards - Appendix 3

Dorset Local Access Forum (1)	
Conservative	Carole Jones

Dorset Police and Crime Panel (5)	
Conservative	Sherry Jespersen
Conservative	Andrew Kerby
Conservative	Les Fry (ALL)
Liberal Democrat	Peter Barrow
Liberal Democrat	David Taylor

Health & Well Being Board (3)	
Conservative - Leader of Council	Spencer Flower
Conservative - Portfolio Holder for People – Adult Social Care & Health	Peter Wharf
Conservative – Portfolio Holder for Children – Educations and Early Help	Andrew Parry

Joint Archives Advisory Board (4)	
Conservative	Laura Miller
Conservative	Simon Christopher
Liberal Democrat	Richard Biggs
Liberal Democrat	Matt Hall

Learning Disability Partnership Board (2 + 2 Subs)	
Conservative	Cathy Lugg
Liberal Democrat	Maria Roe
Conservative (substitute)	Pauline Batstone
Liberal Democrat (substitute)	Molly Rennie

Minerals and Waste Policy Joint Advisory Committee (4 + 4 Subs)	
Conservative	David Shortell
Conservative	Belinda Ridout
Liberal Democrat	Shane Bartlett
Liberal Democrat	David Tooke
Conservative (substitute)	Toni Coombs
Conservative (substitute)	Rod Adkins
Liberal Democrat (substitute)	Roland Tarr
Liberal Democrat (substitute)	Beryl Ezzard

Appointments to Joint Panels and Boards - Appendix 3

Pension Board (1)	
Conservative	David Shortell

Schools Forum (2)	
Conservative	Andrew Parry
Liberal Democrat	David Morgan

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (3)	
Conservative	Jane Somper
Conservative	Mary Penfold
Liberal Democrat	Robin Legg

Stour Valley and Poole Partnership Joint Committee (4)	
Conservative	Andrew Kerby
Conservative	Mike Parkes
Liberal Democrat	Andrew Starr
Liberal Democrat	Alex Brenton

Stour Valley and Poole Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel (3)	
Conservative	Emma Parker
Conservative	Jane Somper
Liberal Democrat	Shane Bartlett

Tricuro Executive Shareholder Group (5)	
Conservative	Peter Wharf
Conservative	Simon Gibson
Conservative	Piers Brown
Liberal Democrat	Beryl Ezzard
Liberal Democrat	Nick Ireland

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ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL – 12 MAY 2022

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

People & Health Overview Committee	Chairman	Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations	Mike Parkes	Pauline Batstone
Liberal Democrat Nominations		
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		

People & Health Scrutiny Committee	Chairman The Chairman shall be a member of the largest opposition group that is different to that of the Leader	Vice-chairman The Vice-chairman shall not be a member of the same political group as the Leader
Conservative Nominations		
Liberal Democrat Nominations	Gill Taylor	Molly Rennie
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		

Place & Resources Overview Committee	Chairman	Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations	Carole Jones	
Liberal Democrat Nominations		
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		Les Fry

Place & Resources Scrutiny Committee	Chairman The Chairman shall be a member of the largest opposition group that is different to that of the Leader	Vice-chairman The Vice-chairman shall not be a member of the same political group as the Leader
Conservative Nominations		
Liberal Democrat Nominations	Shane Bartlett	Andy Canning
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		

Audit & Governance Committee	Chairman The Chairman shall be from the largest political group that is different to the Leader	Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations		
Liberal Democrat Nominations	Matt Hall	Richard Biggs
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		

Appeals Committee	Chairman	Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations	Bill Pipe	Paul Harrison
Liberal Democrat Nominations		
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		

Harbours Committee	Chairman No Co-optee shall be appointed as either Chairman or Vice-chairman	Vice-chairman No Co-optee shall be appointed as either Chairman or Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations	Mark Roberts	
Liberal Democrat Nominations		
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		Rob Hughes

Licensing Committee	Chairman	Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations	Emma Parker	
Liberal Democrat Nominations		Jon Andrews
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		

Strategic & Technical Planning Committee	Chairman	Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations	Robin Cook	
Liberal Democrat Nominations		
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		John Worth

Northern Area Planning Committee	Chairman	Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations	Sherry Jespersen	Mary Penfold
Liberal Democrat Nominations		
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		

Eastern Area Planning Committee	Chairman	Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations	Toni Coombs	
Liberal Democrat Nominations		Shane Bartlett
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		

Western & Southern Area Planning Committee	Chairman	Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations	David Shortell	Bill Pipe
Liberal Democrat Nominations		
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		

Pension Fund Committee	Chairman	Vice-chairman
Conservative Nominations		Peter Wharf
Liberal Democrat Nominations	Andy Canning	
Green Nominations		
ALL Nominations		