

Southend-on-Sea City Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Executive Director (Finance & Resources)

to
Council
on
18th May 2023

Report prepared by: Colin Gamble
(Head of Democratic Services)

Administration for 2023/24 following May 2023 City Council Elections and associated matters

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

For the Council to:

- Note the details of the Political Groups, following the Local Elections on 4th May 2023;
- Note the details of the new Cabinet and Cabinet Committee appointed by the Leader of the Council;
- Agree the subsequent changes to the Cabinet Working Parties in Part 3, Schedule 2 of the Constitution and the revised terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Group (Board);
- Endorse the Council's Constitution (which is on the internet), including the Scheme of Delegation in Part 3, Schedule 3.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note that following the Local Elections on 4th May 2023, the make-up of the Council is as follows:

• Conservative Group	22
• Labour Group	16
• Liberal Democrat Group	4
• Independent Group	3
• Residents' First Group	3
• Non-aligned/Green	<u>3</u>
	<u>51</u>

2.2 To note the changes to the titles and responsibilities of Cabinet Members made by the Leader of the Council, and to note that these changes will be reflected in an amendment to Schedule 1(a) of Part 3 to the Constitution (circulated at the meeting)

- 2.3 To note the appointments to the Cabinet (and substitutes) made by the Leader of the Council, including the arrangements for the Deputy Leader (circulated at the meeting as **List A**).
- 2.4 To note the appointments to the Cabinet Committee (and substitutes) made by the Leader of the Council (to be circulated at the meeting as **List B**).
- 2.5 That the eight Cabinet Working Parties referred to in sections 3.1 – to 3.8 of Part 3 Schedule 2 of the Constitution be replaced by new Working Parties with terms of reference to reflect the remit of the Cabinet Members.
- 2.6. That the revised terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Group (Board) as set out at Appendix 1 to this report be approved.
- 2.7 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to confirm the appointments to the working parties, panels and forums etc in accordance with the nominations of the Group Leaders.
- 2.8 To endorse the Council's Constitution, including the Scheme of Delegation in Part 3, Schedule 3.

3. Background

- 3.1 In accordance with Article 7 in Part 2 of the Constitution and in accordance with the law, it is for the Leader of the Council to:
 - Decide on the number of Cabinet Members and their titles and responsibilities.
 - Appoint the Cabinet Members (and substitutes).
 - Appoint the Cabinet Committee (and substitutes).
- 3.2 In terms of places on relevant Committees and Sub-Committees, these have been allocated on the basis of political proportionality to nominees of the 5 political groups on the Council; with the remaining places being allocated to the ungrouped councillors (Non-aligned/Green).

This matter, together with appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, is dealt with at **Agenda Items 5 and 6** and **List C** has been circulated at the meeting for the Council to agree.
- 3.3 In terms of appointments to Working Parties, Forums, Panels etc., these will also be allocated, by convention, on the basis of political proportionality to nominees of the 5 political groups on the Council.
- 3.4 The Leader has decided to increase the number of Cabinet Working Parties to 10 (as a consequence of increasing the number of Cabinet members). Each new Cabinet Working Party will be linked to the functions of the relevant Cabinet Member in the new Administration.

- 3.5 Adjustments are proposed to the terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Group (to be renamed Corporate Parenting Board) to enhance its effectiveness. The revised terms of reference of the Board are attached as Appendix A to this report.
- 3.6 It has not been possible to seek nominations to the Cabinet Working Parties from all the Groups in advance of the meeting. In the circumstances, it is suggested that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to confirm the appointments to the Cabinet working parties and other working parties, panels and forums etc in accordance with the nominations to be submitted by Group Leaders.
- 3.7 In terms of appointments to Outside Bodies, these will be dealt with by the Council and **List E** has been circulated at the meeting for Council to agree. **(Agenda Item 9)**.
- 3.8 In December 2009 the High Court handed down a judgement in a case involving Leeds City Council, which confirmed that the Council did have a valid Scheme of Delegation notwithstanding the fact that it did not confirm the Scheme on an annual basis. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side it is recommended that the Council endorses the Council's Constitution (which is on the Internet), including the Scheme of Delegation in Part 3, Schedule 3.

4. Financial Implications

With the Cabinet members increasing from 8 to 10, there will be two additional cabinet members allowances to be paid of £11,816 each. For a full year this is an additional cost on the Council's budget of £23,632 (circa £20,700 for part year 2023/24).

The sum of £20,700 for 2023/24 will be funded from the Council's contingency and that the budget setting for 2024/25 will need to consider the ongoing position for 2024/25.

5. Background Papers

None

6. Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Board.