

Forest Heath District Council

(This report is not a key decision. This report has been subject to appropriate notice of publication under the Council's Access to Information Rules)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources, Governance and Performance

SPECIALCOUNCIL

25 SEPTEMBER 2013

COU13/640

REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES FOLLOWING THE DISTRICT COUNCIL BY-ELECTION FOR THE EXNING WARD

1. Summary and reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1.1 This report requests the Council to review the membership of its Committees following the District Council By-Election for the Exning Ward which took place on 11 July 2013.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Council agrees the changes in the membership of each of its Committees for the remainder of 2013/2014.**

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3. How will the recommendations help us meet our strategic priorities?

3.1 The appointment of Members to the Council's Committees will assist the Council in undertaking its responsibilities, as required, under those particular functions.

4. Key issues

4.1 This report reviews the membership of the Council's Committees following the District Council By-Election for the Exning Ward, at which Councillor S Cole was appointed as an Independent Member.

4.2 As a result of the By-election, the political balance of the Council now stands at:

- 23 The Forest Heath Conservative Group
- 3 The Opposition Group (1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Labour, 1 Independent (Councillor Simon Cole))
- 1 Independent (Councillor D W Gathercole)

4.3 Although there are no changes to the political balance, the Opposition Group are required to review their membership on the Committees, as highlighted in bold/italics below:

- (a) Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10)
(Not politically balanced)
(Members of this Committee must not be Cabinet Members)

T Simmons (Chairman)	R D S Hood
G Jaggard (Vice Chairman)	<i>T J Huggan</i>
M J Anderson	<i>M J Jefferys</i>
C J Barker	J W McGhee
D W Bimson	A J Wheble

- (b) Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee (10)
(Not politically balanced)
(Members of this Committee must not be Cabinet Members)

C Noble (Chairman)	<i>T J Huggan</i>
A J Wheble (Vice Chairman)	G Jaggard
M J Anderson	<i>M J Jefferys</i>
C J Barker	Mrs C F J Lynch
D W Bimson	J W McGhee

- (c) Development Control Committee (17)
(The Chairman and Vice Chairman not to be Cabinet Members)

To comprise of no more than the minimum number of Members necessary to allow appointment on the basis of one Member for each ward. The obligation to achieve political balance necessitates more than one Member for that Ward, but no more.

The following Wards only have one Member representative:

1. **Exning – S Cole**
2. Icen – Mrs R E Burt
3. **Manor – T J Huggan**
4. South – Mrs C F J Lynch

M K Smith (Chairman)	D W Gathercole
A Drummond (Vice Chairman)	W Hirst
M J Anderson	T J Huggan
C J Barker	G Jaggard
W J Bishop	Mrs C F J Lynch
D W Bowman	T Simmons
Mrs R E Burt	E Stewart
S Cole	A J Wheble
R Dicker	

(S Cole (Exning) and T J Huggan (Manor) to be appointed, as these Wards only have one Member representative)

- (d) Licensing Committee (10)
(The Chairman and Vice Chairman not to be Cabinet Members)

R Dicker (Chairman)	J W McGhee
M J Anderson (Vice Chairman)	N A Roman
D W Bimson	T Simmons
W J Bishop	E Stewart
Mrs C F J Lynch	Vacancy (Opposition Group)

- (e) Appeals Committee (7) (Chairman elected at individual meetings)
(Members of this Committee must not be Cabinet Members)

C J Barker	T J Huggan
W J Bishop	T Simmons
R Dicker	A J Wheble
A Drummond	

- (f) West Suffolk Joint Standards Committee (6)
(6 members – 3 from Forest Heath District Council, 3 from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, with 1 substitute each)
(Not politically balanced)

E Stewart (Vice Chairman)	Mrs C F J Lynch
R Dicker	R D S Hood (Substitute)

(Chairman: Councillor D Redhead, St Edmundsbury Borough Council)

- 4.4 The Working Groups, Joint Committees, Panels and Other Groups that report directly to the Cabinet, will also be reviewed by the Cabinet at their meeting on 15 October 2013.

5. Other options considered

- 5.1 Not applicable to this report.

6. Community impact

6.1 **Crime and disorder impact** *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

6.1.1 Not applicable to this report.

6.2 **Diversity and equality impact** *(including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)*

6.2.1 Not applicable to this report.

6.3 **Sustainability impact** *(including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)*

6.3.1 Not applicable to this report.

6.4 **Other impact** *(any other impacts affecting this report)*

6.4.1 Not applicable to this report.

7. Consultation *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*

7.1 Not applicable to this report.

8. Financial and resource implications *(including asset management implications)*

8.1 Not applicable to this report.

9. Risk/opportunity assessment *(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)*

Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	High/Medium/Low		High/Medium/Low
If the Council’s Committees are not correctly constituted, then the decisions made by these Committees, could be open to challenge	High	To constitute the Council’s Committees in line with the Council’s Constitution and any other relevant legislation	Low

10. Legal and policy implications

10.1 The Council has an obligation to review its political balance, following changes to its membership.

10.2 The Council’s Committees are constituted with regard to the Council’s Constitution and any other relevant legislation.

11. Ward(s) affected

11.1 The membership of the Development Control Committee is to comprise of no more than the minimum number of Members necessary to allow appointment on the basis of one Member for each ward. The obligation to achieve political balance necessitates more than one Member for that Ward, but no more

12. Background papers

12.1 None.

13. Documents attached

13.1 None.