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Council Meeting

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Supplementary Summons

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COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY, 2022

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12. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

To receive the report of the Corporate Head of Law and Governance set out below, and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 to proceed to establish the standing Committees listed at 12.3 below; to determine the political composition thereof; to receive a report upon the appointment of Members in political groups to such Committees; and to indicate such co-options as may in the view of the Council be appropriate.

12.1 The Statutory Principles

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") sets out how ordinary Committees must be constituted when the Authority is divided into one or more political groups. The Authority is to give effect, as far as reasonably practicable, to the following four principles in constituting its Committees or Sub-Committees:

- a) that not all the seats on the Committee or Sub-Committee are allocated to the same political group;
- b) that the majority of the seats on the Committee or Sub-Committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Authority's membership;
- c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary Committees of a relevant Authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total 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) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the Committee or Sub-Committee which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the Authority.

12.2 **Political Composition of the Council**

The total seats on the Council is 41. The political composition of the Council at the date of the meeting will be as follows:-

	<u>Seats</u>	<u>Approx % of Total</u>
Conservative	24	58.53
Runnymede Independent Residents'	6	14.63
Liberal Democrats	3	7.31
Independent	3	7.31
Labour and Co-operative	3	7.31
Green (S Ringham)	1	2.43
Independent (A.Berardi)	1	2.43

(NB – The Conservative Members, the Runnymede Independent Residents' Members, the Liberal Democrat Members, the Independent Members and Labour and co-operative Members have constituted themselves as political groups in accordance with the 1989 Act).

(For information)

12.3 **Apportionment of Total Committee Seats**

Under the structure previously agreed, and confirmed by the current Constitution the following Committees are required to be appointed (Standing Order 22.1) and are to have the following numbers of seats

Corporate Management Committee	12
Environment and Sustainability Committee	10
Housing Committee	10
Community Services Committee	10
Planning Committee	15
Regulatory Committee	5
Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee (also functioning as the Crime and Disorder Committee)	9
Standards and Audit Committee	10

This gives 81 seats to divide amongst the political groups. On the basis of the statutory principles, there is a total Committee seat entitlement for each political grouping as follows:-

<u>Group</u>	<u>Total Committee Entitlement</u>
Conservative	47
Runnymede Independent Residents'	12
Liberal Democrats	6
Independent	6
Labour and Co-operative	6
	<hr/>
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The remaining 4 seats must be allocated to Councillor Ringham (Green) and Councillor Berardi (Independent) who are not part of a political group. It is for the Council to decide which Committees Councillors Ringham and Berardi sit on.

RECOMMENDATION:

The named Committees in para 12.3 be established and that the number of seats be confirmed as set out in that para.

(To resolve)

12.4 Apportionment of Seats on Individual Committees

Seats on the main Committees should then be allocated in order to give effect to principles (a), (b), and (d) in paragraph 12.1 and the last sentence of the paragraph immediately above.

Although Officers have made suggestions in the table at Appendix 'A' to this report, it is for the Council to agree which Committee has which split.

RECOMMENDATION:

the allocation of seats on the Committees named in paragraph 12.3 and in Appendix 'A' be as set out therein.

(To resolve)

12.5 Individual Membership of Committees

Once the Council has approved the manner of constituting the main Committees, then under the Act and Standing Orders it is necessary to make appointments on each Committee so as to give effect to the wishes of the relevant groups. **The wishes of the political groups regarding appointments to Committees will be tabled at this meeting.** In order to allow for possible changes to the membership of Committees during the Municipal Year, these appointments should not be for fixed terms. **The Council must formally appoint the 'non-Group' Members (Cllr Ringham – Green and Cllr Berardi-Independent) to such Committees as it may decide.** Members are reminded that should the need for change in membership arise during the year, under Standing Order 22.8 the Chief Executive or Corporate Head of Law and Governance, or Democratic Services Manager are authorised to make and change appointments to Committees and Sub-Committees in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.

To seek to avoid any legal difficulties in making substitute appointments during the year, the Council is asked to agree what Members other than those originally appointed should be eligible for membership of Committees or Sub-Committees. **It is suggested that any other Member of the Council from the five political groups be eligible, so as to maximise flexibility.**

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) **Committee seats be allocated to Members of Political Groups as requested by those Groups and as tabled at the meeting;**
- b) **Councillors Ringham and Berardi be appointed to the Committees as set out in Appendix 'A'; and**
- c) **any other Member of the Council from the five political groups be eligible for appointment to any Committee or Sub-Committee, subject to receipt of appropriate training, where applicable.**

(To resolve)

12.6 Appointment of Non-Voting Members to Committees ("co-option")

The Council is able to appoint Members to its ordinary Committees who are not Members of the Authority; normally such appointees will be unable to vote.

Council is asked to approve the continued co-option of the Chair of the Runnymede Council Residents' Association (RCRA) as a non-voting member of Housing Committee, for purposes affecting Council housing tenants.

The conditions of the co-option were that the co-optee must be the Chairman of the RCRA, and could only participate in matters which related to social housing and tenancies.

RECOMMENDATION:

the Chair of the RCRA be appointed as a non-voting Member of the Housing Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

(To resolve)

APPENDIX A

Committee	Con	RIRG	Lib	Ind	Lab	S Ringham	A Berardi
Corporate Management (12)	7	2	1	1	1		
Environment and Sustainability (10)	6	1	1	1	1		
Housing (10)	6	1	1	1	1		
Community Services (10)	6	1	1	1	1		
Planning (15)	9	2	1	1	1		1
Regulatory (5)	3	1	1				
Crime & Disorder/Overview & Scrutiny (9)	5	2			1	1	
Standards and Audit (10)	5	2		1		1	1
(81)	47	12	6	6	6	2	2