



Northumberland

County Council

COUNCIL

DATE: 17TH MAY 2023

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Cabinet Member: Councillor Richard Wearmouth

Purpose of report

To make arrangements for the discharge of the non-executive functions of the County Council through the appointment of committees, appointing Members to those committees in accordance with the proportionality of the Council and to agree their terms of reference.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- 1. Establishes the committees, agrees the size and numbers of members of the committees and appoints the chairs of committees set out in Appendix A;**
- 2. Appoints the working groups currently established by Council, numbers of members and chairs and approves the terms of reference as set out in Appendix B;**
- 3. Appoints ungrouped members to committees of the Council; and**
- 4. Delegates to the Monitoring Officer the responsibility to appoint members of committees on the nomination of their respective Group Leader.**

Link to Corporate Plan

This links with the 'Excellence' value within the 2023-26 Corporate Plan

Key issues

The Council must appoint to Committees annually to discharge the non-executive

functions of the Council.

Background

Under the Local Government Act 2000 all of the functions of the Council are discharged by the Leader and Cabinet, unless they are reserved to the County Council by law, or by local arrangements under the 2000 Act and its subordinate legislation.

The Local Government Act 1972 provides for the council functions to be discharged by Committee or Sub Committees appointed for that purpose or by officers of the council under delegated powers. The constitution of the County Council envisages a number of committees to discharge the non- executive functions, and the Annual Meeting of the Council needs to approve the formation of those committees, and appoint members to the committees.

Members will be aware that committees of the Council must be proportionate according to the respective representation of the political groups on the County Council. In the case of members who are not in a political group, the county council can appoint members directly to those committees, having regard to the proportionality rules. The custom and practice is for the County Council to appoint the chair of each of those committees for the ensuing year.

Appendix A sets out the committees of the Council referred to in the constitution and which have been existence in the previous municipal year. It also provides for the size of committee, its proportionate membership and the nomination of the Chair of the committee which has been submitted by the Leader of the Council. The terms of reference for each of these committees are as set out in the Constitution.

Appendix B sets out the current working groups established by Council. It also provides for the size of working group, its proportionate membership, terms of reference and the nomination of the Chair which has been submitted by the Leader of the Council.

Implications

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	None
Legal	The report relates to functions set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and the employment rights and responsibilities for the council and its employees.
Procurement	None
Human Resources	Incorporated in the report

Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	N/A
Customer Consideration	N/A
Carbon reduction	N/A
Health and Wellbeing	N/A
Wards	All

Background papers:

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Transformation and Resources	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

Suki Binjal, Monitoring Officer and Interim Director of Governance