

Subject	Membership, Political Balance and Appointments to Committees	Status	For Publication
Report to	Authority	Date	10 th June 2021
Report of	Clerk		
Equality Impact Assessment	Required Not Required	Attached	Yes No
Contact Officer	Martin McCarthy Deputy Clerk	Phone	01226 772808
E Mail	MartinMcCarthy@barnsley.gov.uk		

1 **Purpose of the Report**

To approve appointments to the Authority's Committee's for the 2021/22 Municipal Year in line with the political balance rules applying to the Authority.

2 **Recommendations**

2.1 Members are recommended to:

- a. **Note the members appointed to the Authority by the District Councils.**
 - b. **Note the members appointed to answer questions in the meetings of the District Councils' Full Council.**
 - c. **Authorise an increase in the number of seats on each of the Authority's Committees to 6 and agree to amend the Constitution accordingly.**
 - d. **Agree that the Constitution should be amended to provide that the Chair may not be a member of the Audit Committee.**
 - e. **Provide nominations to serve on the two Committees**
-

3 **Link to Corporate Objectives**

3.1 This report links to the delivery of the following corporate objectives:

Effective and Transparent Governance

To uphold effective governance showing prudence and propriety at all times.

4 **Implications for the Corporate Risk Register**

The actions outlined in this report relate to risks around legal compliance contained in the Corporate Risk Register.

5 **Background and Options**

Membership

5.1 The following Councillors have been appointed to the Authority by each of the District Councils for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

Barnsley MBC 2 Members	Doncaster MBC 3 Members	Rotherham MBC 2 Members	Sheffield CC 5 Members	Non-Voting Co-opted Members 3 Members
M Stowe	S Cox	D Fisher	S Clement- Jones	N Doolan (Unison)
N Wright	J Mounsey	M Havard	F Johnson	D Patterson (Unite)
	D Nevett		A Law	G Warwick (GMB)
			C Rosling- Josephs	
			A Sangar	

5.2 The following members have been designated by the District Councils as the s41 Members whose role is to answer questions about the work of the Authority in meetings of the relevant full Council.

	Barnsley MBC	Doncaster MBC	Rotherham MBC	Sheffield CC
S 41 Member	M Stowe	D Nevett	M Havard	A Law

Political Balance and Appointment of Committees of the Authority

5.3 While, in distinction to the District Councils, a system of political groups does not operate within the Pensions Authority, it is made up of elected councillors appointed in line with the relevant political balance rules and the Authority must also follow those rules as in appointing to any committees which it chooses to create.

5.4 The Authority's Constitution provides for two Committees.

- Audit Committee – This has been chaired by the Vice Chair and has comprised the other s41 members and one non-Labour Councillor. The terms of reference mirror those of Audit committee's generally including responsibilities for the approval of the accounts, receiving reports from internal and external auditors, dealing with the risk management framework and related issues. The Committee meets 3 times per municipal year.
- The Staffing Appointments and Appeals Committee – This has been chaired by the Chair and has comprised the s41 members and one non-Labour Councillor. The terms of reference cover dealing with significant staffing changes (affecting more than 5 FTE), other staffing policy issues which require member consideration, the appointment of the Director and other officers and

of the independent investment advisers and various appeals functions. The Committee meets on an ad-hoc basis but in the last two years has met once a year, and it seems likely that at least one meeting will be required this municipal year.

- 5.3 The previous membership of the Committees reflected the political balance of the Authority at the time. The table below provides the current balance of membership of the Authority following the appointments after the 2021 local elections'

	Con	Green	Ind	Lab	Lib Dem	Total
Barnsley				2		2
Doncaster	1			2		3
Rotherham	1			2		2
Sheffield				3	2	5
Total						12
% of total – Authority	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	16.7%	100.0%

- 5.4 The table below shows for illustrative purposes the balance of appointments to the two committees should the previous pattern be followed.

	Con	Green	Ind	Lab	Lib Dem	Total
Committees						
Audit	1			4		5
Staffing etc.				4	1	5
Total	1			8	1	10
Total Seats	3			16	3	22
% of Total Seats	13.6%	0.0%	0.0%	72.7	13.6%	100.0%

- 5.5 What can be seen from this is that with committees of 5 members the allocation of seats is out of line with the balance of the Authority by more than nearly 1 Committee seat for each of the smaller parties. There would be various ways to address this, however, the simplest way which in the view of officers would not detrimentally impact the operation of the two committees would be to increase the membership of each committee to 6 which would give the following balance.

	Con	Green	Ind	Lab	Lib Dem	Total
Committees						
Audit	1			4	1	6
Staffing etc.	1			4	1	6
Total	2			8	2	12
Total Seats	4			16	4	12
% of Total Seats	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	16.7%%	100.0%

5.6 This allocation exactly matches the balance of the Authority's overall membership and it is therefore recommended that it be adopted.

5.7 In addition to dealing with the size of the Committee's it is appropriate to deal with other issues relating to membership. While not written into the Constitution previously the membership of each committee has included all four s.41 members. In the case of the Audit Committee, while it makes sense to continue the convention that the Vice Chair should chair the Audit Committee it seems appropriate in governance terms to write into the constitution that the Chair should not be a member of the Audit Committee. This would mirror the arrangements in companies where those in specific Board leadership roles do not sit on Audit Committees. In terms of the other members of the Committee's given the nature of the items discussed at the Staffing Appointments and Appeals Committee it would be appropriate for that to continue to include the s41 members, but this need not be the case for the Audit Committee.

5.8 Members are invited to make nominations for the Committees either at the meeting or in writing to the Clerk within a week of the meeting.

6 **Implications**

6.1 The proposals outlined in this report have the following implications:

Financial	None – the members allowance scheme caters for committee membership within the calculated allowances
Human Resources	None
ICT	None
Legal	Maintaining political balance in appointments to committees is a legal requirement.
Procurement	None

Sarah Norman

Clerk

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection