

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

Executive Summary

The Council is invited to appoint an additional Borough Councillor to the Woking Joint Committee. The Borough Council Membership of the Joint Committee has been increased for the 2021/22 Municipal Year from seven Members to eight in order to accommodate the appointment of a Member of the County Council's Cabinet. The proposal is in line with the provisions of the Joint Committee's Standing Orders.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

RESOLVE That an additional appointment of a Borough Councillor is made to the Joint Committee for the 2021/22 Financial Year.

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendation set out above.

Background Papers: None.

Reporting Person: Julie Fisher, Chief Executive
Email: julie.fisher@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3333

Contact Person: Frank Jeffrey, Head of Democratic Services
Email: frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3012

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ayesha Azad
Email: cllrayesha.azad@woking.gov.uk

Shadow Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ann-Marie Barker
Email: cllrann-marie.barker@woking.gov.uk

Date Published: 21 July 2021

Membership of the Joint Committee

Membership of the Joint Committee

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Woking Joint Committee is a Joint Committee of Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council and is set up under the provisions of Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Joint Committee aims to improve outcomes and value for money for residents in Woking by strengthening local democracy and improving partnership working within the Borough of Woking.
- 1.2 The Standing Orders of the Joint Committee specify that:

“Membership of the Woking Joint Committee shall be all county councillors with electoral divisions in Woking, one Surrey County Council Cabinet Member (who may also be a county councillor with an electoral division in Woking), and an equivalent number of borough councillors who should be politically proportionate to the borough council. At least one borough councillor shall be a member of that council’s Executive. No substitutes will be permitted for the members on the Joint Committee. Members will be appointed to the committee at the first business meeting of the respective Council, at the start of each municipal year. All borough and county councillors on the Joint Committee will have equal voting rights on all issues being considered.”

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The appointments to the Joint Committee for the 2021/22 Municipal Year were considered by Council at its meeting on 24 May 2021. As in previous years, seven Borough Councillors were appointed to the Joint Committee.
- 2.2 On 16 June 2021, Surrey County Council informed Woking Borough Council that an additional County Councillor had been appointed to the Committee, increasing the number of County Members to eight. The additional appointment was necessary to ensure that an Elected Member of the County Council’s Cabinet was represented on the Committee, in accordance with the Committee’s Standing Orders. The County Membership of the Committee therefore consists of the seven County Councillors for Woking and a Member of the Cabinet.
- 2.3 As a result, Woking Borough Council has been invited to appoint an additional Borough Councillor to the Joint Committee. The current membership is set out below:

Borough Councillors	County Councillors
Councillor Simon Ashall	Councillor Ayesha Azad
Councillor Tahir Aziz	Councillor Amanda Boote
Councillor Ann-Marie Barker	Councillor Liz Bowes
Councillor Josh Brown	Councillor Will Forster
Councillor Deborah Hughes	Councillor Matt Furniss
Councillor Colin Kemp	Councillor Saj Hussain
Councillor Ellen Nicholson	Councillor Riasat Khan
1 x vacancy	Councillor Lance Spencer

3.0 Proportionality

- 3.1 The Members of the Council are therefore invited to appoint a further Member representative for the Joint Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.
- 3.2 Such appointments are normally considered by Selection Panel at its annual meeting to ensure that the overall proportionality of Members appointed to Committees and Sub-Committees. The recommendations of Selection Panel are subsequently considered at the first business meeting of Council (24 May 2021). The notice of this vacancy fell outside of the normal timeframe for appointments and accordingly is now being presented direct to Council.
- 3.3 However, to assist the Members of the Council, and to ensure proportionality is maintained as far as is practicable, four different scenarios have been drawn up based on the vacancy being taken up by a Member of the four Political Groups.

4.0 Corporate Strategy

- 4.1 The work of the Joint Committee sits within the Corporate Plan's priority area of 'an innovative, proactive and effective council' and strengthening partnership working.

5.0 Implications

Finance and Risk

- 5.1 There are no financial or risk management implications arising from this report.

Equalities and Human Resources

- 5.2 There are no equalities or human resources implications arising from the report. The appointment is to be made to ensure proportionality across the Council's appointments to Committees and Sub-Committees is maintained as far as practicable.

Legal

- 5.3 The Council must allocate seats on Committees and other prescribed bodies to give effect to the political balance rules. The rules for the allocation of seats are set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government Regulations 1990.
- 5.3 Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out the principles as follows:
- a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - b) that the majority of the seats on the body is 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 body 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.

6.0 Engagement and Consultation

6.1 No engagement or consultation has been undertaken in respect of the vacancy available

REPORT ENDS

Membership of the Joint Committee

Woking Joint Committee – Proportionality Scenarios

1. Current position of proportionality on Council Committees and Joint Committee

Body	No. of places	Con	Labour	Lib Dem	Ind
Woking Joint Committee	7	3	1	3	
Total Allocated	43	18	5	17	3
Proportionality		18.6	4.3	17.2	2.9
Variance		-0.6	0.7	-0.2	0.1

2. Impact of additional seat on Joint Committee, taken up by the **Conservative Group**

Body	No. of places	Con	Labour	Lib Dem	Ind
Woking Joint Committee	8	4	1	3	
Total Allocated	44	19	5	17	3
Proportionality		19.1	4.4	17.6	2.9
Variance		-0.1	0.6	-0.6	0.1

3. Impact of additional seat on Joint Committee, taken up by the **Independent Group**.

Body	No. of places	Con	Labour	Lib Dem	Ind
Woking Joint Committee	8	3	1	3	1
Total Allocated	44	18	5	17	4
Proportionality		19.1	4.4	17.6	2.9
Variance		-1.1	0.6	-0.6	1.1

Membership of the Joint Committee

4. Impact of additional seat on Joint Committee, taken up by the **Liberal Democrat Group**.

Body	No. of places	Con	Labour	Lib Dem	Ind
Woking Joint Committee	8	3	1	4	0
Total Allocated	44	18	5	18	3
Proportionality		19.1	4.4	17.6	2.9
Variance		-1.1	0.6	0.4	0.1

5. Impact of additional seat on Joint Committee, taken up by the **Labour Group**.

Body	No. of places	Con	Labour	Lib Dem	Ind
Woking Joint Committee	8	3	2	3	0
Total Allocated	44	18	6	17	3
Proportionality		19.1	4.4	17.6	2.9
Variance		-1.1	1.6	-0.6	0.1