

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES (INCLUDING SUBSTITUTES) 2026/27

Committee: Annual Council

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1.0 ISSUE

To consider the appointment of Members and substitutes to Committees and Sub-Committees for 2026/27.

This report follows the statutory review of political proportionality (Item 12) and seeks to ensure that the Council's decision-making structure is fully populated and operationally ready for the municipal year, while allowing for the conclusion of ongoing cross-party discussions.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:

- a) Approves the appointment of Lay Member (Stephen Joyce) to the Audit Committee.
- b) Approves the appointments of:
 - Two Independent Persons (Gillian Holmes and Stuart Webster), and
 - Two Co-Opted Town/Parish Councillor Members (Cllr Rosemary Aitchson (Soham TC)/Vacancy), on the Finance & Assets (Ethical Governance) Sub-Committee.
- c) Delegates authority to the Democratic Services and Elections Manager to populate the membership of committees and sub-committees, upon receipt of formal notification from the respective Political Group Leaders as soon as practically possible.

3.0 BACKGROUND

At the Annual Meeting, the Council is required to appoint the membership of its committees to ensure the effective discharge of its functions. Under Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council has a statutory duty to give effect to the wishes of the political groups when appointing individuals to the seats allocated to them.

Under Item 12, there are proposed changes to the numbers and make-up of committees and sub-committees to reflect changes to the political make-up of the Council.

Delegation is sought to the Democratic Services and Elections Manager to receive notification from Political Group Leaders on the individual membership of committees and sub-committees to reflect the decision made in Agenda Item 12.

This administrative delegation ensures that committees are legally constituted and can begin their scheduled work for the new Municipal Year immediately upon the conclusion of political negotiations.

Background Documents

ECDC Constitution – Part 3: Responsibility for Functions (A) Council, (B) Policy Committees, (C) Regulatory Committees & (D) Other Committees/Joint Committees

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Sections 15, 16 & 17)