

<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Member for Environment, Finance and Governance and Director of Legal and Governance Services
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
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<b>Date:</b>	30 March 2022
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<b>Title:</b>	Vacancies on Committees
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<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Strategic priority:</b>	All
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<b>Key decision:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Urgent:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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### **Executive summary**

To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees and scrutiny panels further to appointment of members to the Executive and resignations from Committees.

### **Purpose**

1. To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees and scrutiny panels further to appointment of members to the Executive and resignations from Committees.

### **Background and relevant information**

2. Following resignations from Committees and the freeing up of places on scrutiny panels, vacated as a result of members being appointed to the Executive, a number of vacancies exist. Council is required to consider and approve nominations for appointment to the vacancies.

**What decision(s) are being recommended?**

3. That the Council:

Subject to receipt of nominations to the following vacancies, approves the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other councillors and fills the following vacancies:

The following vacancies resulted as a consequence of Councillor Coupe being appointed to the Executive. As all three Conservative councillors are members of the Executive, the following vacancies are open to all councillors who are not members of the Executive:

Children and Young Peoples Learning Scrutiny

1 Vacancy

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Durham Darlington Teesside Hambleton Richmondshire and Whitby (DDTHRW) STP Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 Vacancy

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Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

1 Vacancy

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Health Scrutiny Panel

1 Vacancy

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Chair of Health Scrutiny Panel (must be a member of Health Scrutiny Panel)

1 Vacancy

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South Tees Health Scrutiny Committee

1 Vacancy

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Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Committee

1 Vacancy

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## Overview and Scrutiny Board

This vacancy should go to the newly appointed Chair of Health Scrutiny Panel if they are not already a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

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The following vacancies resulted as a consequence of the resignation of a MIG member from the committee. They are both open to MIG members initially. If there are no nominations from the MIG group, the vacancies are open to all members of the Council.

### Corporate Parenting Board (Initially open to MIG members)

1 Vacancy

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Vice-Chair of Corporate Parenting Board (must be a member of Corporate Parenting Board)

1 Vacancy

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Planning and Development Committee (Initially open to MIG members)

1 Vacancy

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## **Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

4. Council is required to appoint to any vacant places on Committees to ensure that all meetings will be quorate.

## **Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

5. Do Nothing: This option could result in meetings becoming inquorate and could result in the decision making process being delayed.

## **Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

### ***Legal***

6. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the Council periodically reviews the political composition of the Council, and how this is applied to appointments to committees and sub-committees of the Council.

7. The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

8. The Council is under a duty to:

(a) Ensure that the membership of those committees and sub-committees covered by the rules reflect the political composition of the Council, as far as practicable.

(b) Review the allocation of seats to political groups at or as soon as practical after the Annual Council meeting and at certain other specified times for example, as a result of changes in political balance or an increase in the number of committees established.

### ***Strategic priorities and risks***

9. The relevant risks this decision would influence are cited below, with an explanation as to why they are relevant and how it would affect each risk.

<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Impact</b>
O8-054	Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.	By ensuring that meetings are quorate then the Council is ensuring that good governance is in place and in line with the requirements of the Council's constitution so this would have a positive impact on this risk.
O8-055	If the Council doesn't respond effectively and efficiently to legislative changes it could be in breach of statutory duties in relation to service delivery and fail to make the most of opportunities.	The Council has a duty to ensure that the membership of the committees and sub committees are covered and is required to appoint to any vacant places to ensure that all meetings remain quorate. This will have a positive impact on this risk as the Council is fulfilling its duties.

### ***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

10. Not applicable

### ***Financial***

11. There are no financial implications arising from the content of this report.

### **Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<a href="#">Add Members to Committees</a>	Democratic Services Officers	7 April 2023

### **Appendices**

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**Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

**Contact: Charlotte Benjamin**  
**Email: [charlotte\\_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**