

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	16 October 2024
Title:	Vacancies on Committees 2024/2025
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Not Applicable

Proposed decision(s)

That the Council, subject to receipt of nominations to the vacancies listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report, approves the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other Councillors and fills the vacancies.

Executive summary

To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees and scrutiny panels due to vacancies that were not filled at the Annual Council meeting and resignations from committees.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees/scrutiny panels, following resignations and vacancies that remain, following the Annual Council meeting.

2. Recommendations

2.1 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:

Committee Vacancies:

Place Scrutiny Panel

Vice Chair

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

2 vacancies

Outside Bodies Vacancies:

JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL:

River Tees Port Health Authority

1 vacancy

Middlesbrough-Oberhausen Town Twinning

1 vacancy

JOINT COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY EXECUTIVE:

Staying Put Advisory Committee

1 vacancy

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

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

4. Background and relevant information

- 4.1 Following resignations from Committees and places on Committees that were not taken up at the Annual Council meeting, several vacancies exist. Council is required to consider and approve nominations for appointment to the vacancies.

5. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

- 5.1 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)

5.2 *Financial (including procurement and Social Value)*

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

5.3 *Legal*

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.

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.

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.

5.4 *Risk*

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.

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.

5.5 Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

No protected groups are affected by the decision.

5.6 Climate Change / Environmental

Not applicable.

5.7 Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

Not applicable.

5.8 Data Protection

Not applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Update Memberships of Committees	Democratic Services Officers	18 October 2024

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Council	Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies 2024/2025	11 September 2024

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk