

Standards Committee



16 March 2022

Title	Membership of Committee System Working Group
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	Victoria Statham, Monitoring Officer
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	Not applicable
Corporate Priority	This item is not in the current list of Corporate Priorities.
Recommendations	Committee is asked to agree the membership of the Committee System Working Group to comprise all Group Leaders and Independent members that exist at the time of any meeting of the Working Group, and one additional named Conservative member.
Reason for Recommendation	To enable as wide a representation on the Working Group as possible, by members of all political persuasions.

1. Summary of the report

1.1 This report seeks approval of the membership of the Committee System Working Group.

2. Key issues

2.1 The Committee System Working Group was first established in November 2020 to develop the structure of the new Committee System. The Working Group comprised all the Group Leaders and independent members at that time. It agreed to meet periodically after adoption of the System in May 2021 to review its operation and evaluate its success.

2.2 At the Extraordinary Standards Committee held on 29 September 2021, the Working Group was re-established under the Committee System with terms of reference to enable it to review the operation of the Committee System and recommend any amendments. The Committee also agreed the membership of the Working Group as follows:

“Group Leaders, the Independent Green councillor and one additional named Conservative member.”

It is clear from the Minutes of that meeting (Appendix 1) that the intention was for the Working Group to consist of “all group leaders and independent members, which would allow the independent Green councillor to be part of the working group.”

The resolution wording has resulted in some confusion among members of the Working Group as it excluded an independent member who had served on the Working Group between November 2020 and March 2021 but was not an independent member at the time of the decision taken on 29 September 2021.

3. OPTIONS ANALYSIS

- 3.1 a) **Recommended:** The membership of the Committee System Working Group to comprise all Group Leaders and independent members that exist at the time of any meeting of the Working Group and one additional named Conservative member. This would reflect the principle that had been set from the Working Group's inception, that as wide a representation of political groupings as exist in the Council would be included on this Working Group.
- 3.2 This proposal would accommodate any future formations of groups, or members leaving groups to be independent.
- 3.3 This proposal was put to the Committee System Working Group at its first meeting of this year and members supported it.
- 3.4 b) **Not recommended:** Retain the membership as minuted at the Extraordinary Standards Committee on 29 September 2021. This would exclude any other members who since that date, or at a future date, became independent.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to agree the membership of the Committee System Working Group to comprise all Group Leaders and Independent members that exist at the time of any meeting of the Working Group and one additional named Conservative member.

5. Contact

- 5.1 Victoria Statham v.statham@spelthorne.gov.uk

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Minutes of Standards Committee 29 September 2021