

**SPECIAL ANGUS COUNCIL – 8 MAY 2025**

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEES AND  
APPOINTMENT OF CONVENERS AND VICE-CONVENERS OF EACH COMMITTEE**

**REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE & CHANGE**

**1. ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This purpose of this Report is to make appointments to Standing Committees of the Council in terms of the Scheme of Governance, and to appoint Conveners and Vice-Conveners to the Standing Committees.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 2.1 The contents of this Report contribute to the achievement of all priorities set out in the Council Plan 2023 – 2028 and in particular:

- Angus Council is efficient and effective.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Council is recommended:-

- (i) to note the Standing Committees of the Council;
- (ii) to note the requirement to adhere to the principles of political balance in appointing members to Committees and the provisions generally relating to appointment to committees all as outlined in the Scheme of Governance, Standing Order 31 and in Section 5 of this Report;
- (iii) to appoint members to each of the Standing Committees detailed in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 31; and
- (iv) to appoint Conveners and Vice-Conveners to the Standing Committees in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 8(2).

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 At a Special meeting of Angus Council held on 22 April 2025, a motion to form a new administration was considered. The motion was carried by 14 votes to 13 and therefore became the finding of the meeting.
- 4.2 As part of the motion, it was agreed that all political appointments, including Provost, Depute Provost, Conveners and Vice-Conveners would become vacant and the removal of existing appointments would be with immediate effect. It was also confirmed that the appointments to outside bodies will continue until the calling notice for a Special meeting of Angus Council to consider the appointments is published at which time those appointments would become vacant. It was agreed that a Special meeting of Angus Council be held as soon as practicable to consider the appointments of Provost, Depute Provost and the appointments to all Standing Committees including the appointment of Conveners and Vice-Conveners, as well as appointments to outside bodies (the latter being covered by Report 133/25 "Council Appointments to Outside Bodies" which is a separate item on the agenda).

**5. CURRENT POSITION**

- 5.1 The Scheme of Governance Standing Order 29(1) provides that 'the Council will appoint the Standing Committees referred to in Standing Order 30'.

The Standing Committees of the Council are as follows:-

- (i) Family, Education & Justice;
- (ii) Civic Licensing;
- (iii) Communities;
- (iv) Development Standards;
- (v) Housing;
- (vi) Policy & Resources; and
- (vii) Scrutiny & Audit.

The full remit of each of the above Standing Committees is detailed with the [Scheme of Government, Terms of Reference](#).

In terms of membership of the Standing Committees, Standing Order 31(1)-(4) details the current membership of Standing Committees, as follows:

- (1) The membership of the Development Standards Committee will be made up of 13 Members and the Civic Licensing Committee will consist of up to 10 members.
- (2) The Family, Education & Justice Committee will have a membership of 16 Members and in addition, five persons who are not members of the Council, being:
  - (i) three persons representative of church and denominational interests, appointed in terms of Section 124 of the 1973 Act; and
  - (ii) two teachers employed in educational establishments under the management of the Council, nominated in such manner as the Council may determine.
- (3) The Housing Committee will have a membership of 16 Members, and, in addition, three persons who are not members of the Council, being tenant representatives appointed in a non-voting capacity and in accordance with a Scheme adopted by the Council.
- (4) All other Standing Committees of the Council will consist of 16 Members, except for the Scrutiny and Audit Committee which will consist of 13 Members with not less than 8 of those appointed being councillors who are not Members of the Administration.

5.2 In appointing members to Committees, Standing Order 31(5) states “in appointing members to Committees, the Council shall, so far as possible, give effect to the principles regarding political balance set out in the 1989 Act”. Under Sections 15 and 16 of the Act, the Council must allocate seats on committees so as to give effect to the political balance rules as follows:

- (i) the number of seats on the ordinary committees which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all seats on ordinary committees as is borne by the number of members of that political group to the total membership of the authority.

The phrase “as far as possible” provides some flexibility but the spirit of the provisions relating to political balance ought to be followed. This applies to all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council, again by virtue of the Standing Orders, with the exception of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee where a majority of members must not be members of the Administration. The Leader and Depute Leader of the Council are also not permitted to be members of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee.

5.3 The definition of a political group is contained within the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. A political group is required to have at least two members and requires to be formally constituted as a political group. However, the Scheme of Governance adopted by the Council also provides:

‘Standing Order 31(6):

Members are to be appointed at the first meeting of the Council after the ordinary election of Councillors. It shall, however, be competent for the Council to vary the membership at any time, provided:

- (i) that the political balance referred to in Standing Order 31(5) above is maintained; and

(ii) that each member is given proper opportunity to serve on Committees.'

## **6. PROPOSALS**

6.1 The following table provides the allocation of places to each political group and non-aligned Councillors:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Administration Group (13 members) (46.43%)</b>	<b>Opposition Group (12 members) (42.86%)</b>	<b>Non aligned (3 members) (10.71%)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
All 16 member Committees	7	7	2	
13 member Committees	6	6	1	
10 member Committees	5	4	1	
Scrutiny and Audit (13)				Not less than 8 appointed being Cllrs who are not members of the Administration.

Members are asked to consider the allocation of places as appropriate and to appoint members to each of the Standing Committees detailed in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 31; and to appoint Conveners and Vice-Conveners to the Standing Committees in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 8(2).

Members are also requested to note that no amendments require to be made in relation to the Church and Teachers Representatives on the Family, Education & Justice Committee or the Tenant Representatives on the Housing Committee.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no additional financial implications arising as a direct result of the recommendations in this Report. Matters concerning salary payments for Conveners and other senior councillor roles are detailed in Report 134/25 "Remuneration of Councillors" which is a separate item on the agenda.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1 This Report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this Report.

## **10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY**

10.1 A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the following reason:

There are no direct equality implications in terms of this Report as its recommendations have no differential impact on those with protected characteristics.

## **11. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 11.1 A Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been undertaken and a full assessment is not required as the "General Principles" do not apply to this proposal.

## **12. CONSULTATION**

- 12.1 The Director of Finance and the Chief Executive have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.

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