



South Tyneside Council

Item 10

Report to appoint to Committees and Outside Bodies

This document has been classified as: **Not
protectively marked**
Lucy Keating, Interim Director of Legal and
Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Council 30 July 2026

Report to Council

Cabinet Portfolio/Lead Member: Leader of the Council

Report of Lucy Keating, Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Subject: Report to appoint to Committees and Outside Bodies

Date: 30 July 2026

Wards affected: All Wards are equally represented by the work of the Council's Committees.

Council ambitions: This will help us achieve all five of our Ambitions in all we do.

Does the report and any appendices contain information which has been identified as confidential or exempt?

- No, this report does not contain information identified as confidential or exempt.

For Executive Decisions only:

Is the decision a Key Decision? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes

If not in the Forward Plan is the report: N/A

Relevant Scrutiny Chair:

Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny? No

Purpose of Report

1. Following Council's Annual Meeting in May 2026, the Council's Monitoring Officer was advised of some proposed changes to the membership of Council Committees, Outside Bodies and Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Background Information

2. At its Annual Meeting in May 2026, Council agreed its appointments for the Municipal Year 2026/27.
3. The purpose of this report is to advise Council of a number of changes to the membership of Committees, Outside Bodies and Chair and Vice Chair positions and to seek Council's agreement to these amendments.
4. Council is also advised that subsequent to the Annual Meeting of Council, a Councillor for the Harton ward has since resigned which has resulted in a vacancy. There are therefore a small number of committees to which a vacancy exists which are indicated in the report.
5. The table below details the Council's current political balance and seat entitlement:

Group	Number of Councillors in the Group as of 22 July 2026	As a percentage (%) 22 July 2026	Committee Seat Entitlement - 22 July 2026
Reform	40	74.07	132.59 (133)
Green Group	10	18.52	33.15 (33)
South Tyneside Alliance Group (STAG)	2	3.70	6.63 (7)
Labour	1	1.85	3.31 (3)
Vacancy	1	1.85	TBC (3)
Total	54 Members	100%	179 seats

Proposals regarding Committee Membership, Outside Bodies and Chair and Vice Chairs

6. In relation to Committee Membership, the following proposals are submitted for approval by Full Council:

Committee	Nominating Group	Recommendation
General Purposes	Reform UK	Remove: Cllr Ross Appoint: Cllr Fenwick
Adult Safeguarding, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Reform UK	Remove: Cllrs Elsender, Tooley and Turnbull Appoint: Cllrs Bell, Fenwick and Oughton
Children Safeguarding and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Reform UK	Remove: Cllrs Barclay, Cain, A. Smith, Turnbull and H. Wildhirt Appoint: Cllrs Bell, Fox, Medcalf, Oughton and M. Smith
Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee	Reform UK	Remove: Cllrs Cain, Richardson and Ross Appoint: Cllrs Fenwick, M. Smith and H. Wildhirt
Contracts and Commissioning Scrutiny Committee	Reform UK	Remove: Clarke (no longer a Member) and Cllr Wears Appoint: Cllrs Elsender and Fenwick
Housing Scrutiny Committee	Reform UK	Remove: Cllr Barclay, Clarke (no longer a Member) and Cllr Wears Appoint: Cllr Medcalf and H. Wildhirt A vacancy remains on this committee.

Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Reform UK	Remove: Clarke (no longer a Member), Cllrs Pittuck, Richardson and S. Smith Appoint: Cllrs Fenwick, Turnbull and H. Wildhirt A vacancy remains on this committee.
Planning	Reform UK	Remove: Clarke (no longer a Member) Appoint: Cllr Bell
Pensions	Reform UK	Remove: Cllrs Heywood, Maddison and Royal Appoint: Cllrs Cain, Fenwick and Oughton
People and Organisational Development Committee	Reform UK	Remove: Cllrs Perry and Tooley Appoint: Cllr Richardson A vacancy remains on this committee.
Constitution Committee	Reform UK	Remove: Cllrs S. Smith, Wears and Royal (substitute) Appoint: Cllrs Fenwick, Fox and Elsender (substitute)

7. In relation to Outside Bodies, the following proposals are submitted for approval by Full Council:

Outside Body	Nominating Group	Recommendation
Association for Public Service Excellence	Reform UK	Remove: Cllr Royal Appoint: Cllr Curry
Barnes Institute (Whitburn) Management Committee	Reform UK	Remove: Cllr Royal Appoint: Cllr Humphrey
Customs House Trust Board – Board of Directors		Remove: Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure (David Brooks)

		Appoint: Director of Public Health (Tom Hall)
Local Government Association – Coastal Special Interest Group	Reform UK	Remove: Cllr Royal Appoint: Cllr Elsander
National Association of Councillors – Northern Branch	Reform UK	Remove: Cllr Royal Appoint: Cllr Curry
North East Mayoral Strategic Authority – Audit and Standards Committee	Reform UK	Cllr M. Smith to be appointed Member and Cllr Elsander to be appointed substitute
North East Regional Employers’ Organisation	Reform UK	Remove: Cllr M. Smith Appoint: Cllr Elsander
South Tyneside Citizens’ Advice Bureau – Management Committee	Reform UK	Remove: Cllr Tooley Appoint: Cllr Fascione
South Tyneside Regional Equality Forum	Reform UK	Remove: Cllr Royal Appoint: Cllr Curry

8. In relation to Chair and Vice Chair positions, the following proposals are submitted for approval by Full Council:

Committee	Nominating Group	Recommendation
Adult Safeguarding, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Reform UK	Remove Cllr Elsander as Vice Chair and appoint Cllr Bell
Our Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee	Reform UK	Remove Cllr Rice as Chair and appoint Cllr Turnbull Remove Cllr Turnbull as Vice Chair and appoint Cllr Rice
Pensions Committee	Reform UK	Remove Cllr Maddison as Vice Chair and appoint Cllr Oughton
Jarrow and Boldon CAF	Reform UK	Remove Cllr Murray as Vice Chair and appoint Cllr Rice

Financial and Resources

9. There are no specific finance and resource implications arising as a direct result of this report. No Elected Members receive any remuneration over and above their Basic Allowance for simply being a member of a Council committee, unless they are also tasked with a special responsibility i.e. a Chairing role. The Leader of the Council and the Leader of the main opposition group of the Council receive a Special Responsibility Allowance.
10. There are many aspects of being an effective councillor, and the role and responsibilities each councillor has in relation to their committee memberships requires a great deal of time and resource in preparation so that councillors can properly contribute – challenge, inspire and inform, which goes far beyond simply attending the meeting itself.
11. Everything the Council does needs to be seen in the context of an increasingly challenging financial environment and all Council committees consider this during the course of their work. The demand for services is increasing whilst the funds available to meet those needs continues to fall. Despite these challenges the Council has a drive and commitment to ensure it is doing the very best for residents and communities in the delivery of its Vision and Ambitions for South Tyneside.

Legal and Governance

12. The allocation of seats shall conform to the principles set down in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Part 1 Section 15(5)(a) – (d). The Council is required to review the representation of Groups at its Annual Meeting each year to determine the membership of committees of the Council. This is in accordance with Sections 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Section 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (Requirement to Constitute Political Groups).
13. Where political balance requirements apply, Borough Council should comply with the wishes of each political group unless there are sound reasons for challenge. Ordinarily, it is only where a political group fails to express their wishes within the prescribed time that Borough Council may decide whom to appoint but Group leaders must take responsibility for their members working collaboratively on all Committees, and this should be carefully considered during the nomination process.

Risk

14. In line with the relevant legislation, the Council must review the Political Balance and appoint the membership of the Committees of the Council at its Annual Meeting of Council. Therefore, there is no alternative option otherwise the Council would be at risk of not complying with required legal obligations and provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Non-compliance or a misalignment across our committees could create issues with our decision-making and the potential for

confusion, complaints and accusations of a lack of fairness, openness and transparency.

Equality and Diversity and Community

15. The decisions recommended in this report do not give rise to any equality or diversity implications. Whilst there are no specific equalities implications, Elected Members are reminded of their duties under the Equality Act 2010 to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity for those with protected characteristics. Training is available for any Elected Member who may require it to ensure compliance with the Equality Act and Public Sector equality duties.
16. The Mayor and Committee Chairs have an overriding discretion to extend speaking limits and make other adjustments on request of Elected Members to enable everyone to contribute at Council and at all Committee meetings.

Environmental and Sustainability

17. The decisions recommended in this report do not give rise to any environmental or sustainability implications. It is of course important that committee membership is stable and experienced so that committee business can be maintained and functions well. Committee membership refreshment can bring to the Committee new talent and diverse perspectives, but continuity of membership can help build trust and more efficient ways of working.

Council Ambitions, Policies, Strategies and Plans

18. Our Vision is based on five 'Ambitions'. We want all residents in South Tyneside to be financially secure; be healthy and well throughout their lives; be connected to jobs, skills, and learning; be part of strong communities; and we want to support our residents by targeting support to make things fairer.
19. The work of the Executive and Council's committees supports those Ambitions and helps ensure that all policies, strategies and plans are known and understood, with work and focus across all Committees focused on our Vision and Ambition to target support at the residents and parts of the borough that need it more, reducing inequalities and making things fairer.

20. This report should be considered with the Council's Vision and Values in mind and demonstrate alignment to our agreed 'Council Values' that define what we stand for as an organisation and the things that are most important in terms of how we work and act in a way that is 'PROUD'.

Consultation and Engagement

21. There are no significant consultation or engagement implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

22. Borough Council are asked to:
- a) note the information included in this report regarding the current political balance of the Council; and
 - b) agree to the proposals outlined in the report in relation to the appointments to Council Committees, Outside Bodies and Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Reasons for Recommendations

23. To ensure Council appoint the membership of the committees of the Council in accordance with political balance. To ensure Council appoint the membership of the committees of the Council in accordance with political balance

List of Appendices

None

Report to Appoint the Membership of the Committees of the Council

The following is a list of the background papers (excluding exempt papers) relied upon in the preparation of the above report:

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location
The Local Government and Housing Act 1989		http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/42/part/I/crossheading/political-balanceoncommittees-etc
The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 -		http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1990/1553/contents/made