



Public Accounts Select Committee

Confirmation of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee

Date: 7 July 2021

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributor: Assistant Chief Executive

Outline and recommendations

Further to the Annual General Meeting of Council on 26 May 2021, this report informs the Select Committee of the appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee.

- To confirm the election of Councillor Patrick Codd as Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee.
- To confirm the election of Councillor Alan Hall as Vice Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee.

1. Summary

- 1.1. On 26 May 2021, the Annual General Meeting of the Council considered a report setting out an allocation of seats on committees to political groups on the Council in compliance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 1.2. The constitutional allocation for both chairs and vice chairs of select committees is:
Labour: 6

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Select Committee is recommended to:
 - (i) Confirm the election of Councillor Patrick Codd as Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee
 - (ii) Confirm the election of Councillor Alan Hall as Vice-Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee

3. Policy context

The Council's strategic priorities as set out in the [Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022](#) are:

[Open Lewisham](#) - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.

[Tackling the housing crisis](#) - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.

[Giving children and young people the best start in life](#) - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.

[Building an inclusive local economy](#) - Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.

[Delivering and defending: health, social care and support](#) - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.

[Making Lewisham greener](#) - Everyone enjoys our green spaces, and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.

[Building safer communities](#) - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1. Select committees are obliged to act in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1. The [Equality Act 2010](#) (The Act) legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It replaced the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single act, making the law easier to understand and strengthen protection in certain situations. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.2. The Act also imposes a public sector equality duty. This means that in public bodies, of which this Council is designated, they must consider all individuals in carrying out their day-to-day work when shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It also requires public bodies to:
- Have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination
 - Advance equality of opportunity
 - Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities
- 6.3. The Council recognises diversity is one of its strengths and is committed to creating a more inclusive community. Therefore, having due regard to the Act, is confirmation of the Council's commitment to eliminating all forms of discrimination against any group within the community and to actively promote an equality of opportunity and positive community partnership.
- 6.4. The delivery of the Council's equalities objectives is to be achieved through the

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delivery of all of the Council's strategies, plans and procedures. As such, all select committees and other scrutiny bodies, when planning their work and scrutinising items, bear in mind the delivery of the Council's equality objectives.

- 6.5. Scrutiny tries to make sure that its work reflects the diversity of Lewisham's communities and that the views of residents are fairly represented in scrutiny processes. Any recommendations arising from scrutiny work support the Council's corporate strategy and reflect the needs of local residents.
- 6.6. There are no direct equality implications arising as a result of the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

7. Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report. However, in February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. All resolutions made by the Committee should recognise this.

8. Crime and disorder implications

- 8.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

- 9.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

10. Background papers

- 10.1. [Agenda for Lewisham Council AGM – 26 May 2021](#)

11. Report contact

- 11.1. Timothy Andrew, Scrutiny Manager, timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk

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