



Committee and date

Council

22 July 2010

10.00 a.m.

Item No

8

Public

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

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1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to reflect the recent change in political balance following the election of Mr Richard Huffer, Liberal Democrat, to the vacant seat for the Clee Division which was previously held by the Conservative Group.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended:

- (a) That the Council approves the allocation of seats on Committees in accordance with paragraph 3.4 of the report.
- (b) That the Council notes that Mr R M Huffer will serve on the Strategic Licensing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- (c) That the wishes of the Leader of the Council in respect of the Conservative vacancy on the Community Services Scrutiny Committee be noted.
- (d) That the Council approve the appointment of Mr M Whiteman and Mr J Hurst-Knight as Member Champions for the Business Sector and for Assets, respectively.

Report

3.0 Allocation of Seats

- 3.1 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review the representation of each political group on committees at the Annual Meeting or as soon as practicable after a change in the political membership of the Council.
- 3.2 The Regulations require that all Scrutiny, Standing and Regulatory Committees are politically balanced across all committee places (i.e. in aggregate) Subject to that overriding requirement, each committee must then also be politically balanced as far as is reasonably practicable.

- 3.3 These regulations do not apply to the Executive (Cabinet) nor to the Standards Committee. Neither are Advisory Committees or other ad hoc bodies and groups subject to the political balance rules. But in the past the Council has applied political proportionality to them, but not within the overall aggregate balance.
- 3.4 The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats following the recent result in the Clee by-election in which a Liberal Democrat was elected to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of a Conservative member. In accordance with the Political Balance Rules, the maximum number of seats available to each group is:

Conservatives	69 seats
Liberal Democrats	16 seats
Labour	9 seats
Independent	3 seats
Total	97 seats

- 3.5 Following the proportionate allocation of seats to the political groups at the Annual Meeting on 29 April, minimal change is required. However, the loss of the Clee Division requires the Conservative Group to relinquish a seat on both the Strategic Licensing Committee and the Health Overview and Crime Reduction Scrutiny Committee thereby reducing their seats to a total of 7 on each committee. In turn, the Liberal Democrats are entitled to both seats, raising their entitlement on each committee to 2.
- 3.6 The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group has advised that Mr R M Huffer will serve on the Strategic Licensing Committee and the Health Overview and Crime Reduction Scrutiny Committee.

4.0 Community Services Scrutiny Committee

- 4.1 Mr M J Owen who was appointed to serve on this committee at the last Annual Meeting has since been appointed to the Cabinet and is therefore no longer eligible to be a member.
- 4.2 The wishes of the Leader of the Council in respect of this vacancy will be announced at the meeting.

5.0 Appointment of Member Champions

- 5.1 The Leader of the Council has given notice of the following changes on Members Champions:-

<u>AREA</u>	<u>NEW MEMBER</u>	<u>REPLACING</u>
Champion for the Business Sector	MR M WHITEMAN	MR P ANDREWS
Champion for Assets	Mr J HURST-KNIGHT	Mr M J OWEN

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder.

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998

The contents of this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998

Environmental Appraisal

Not Applicable

Risk Management Appraisal

The Council is obliged to ensure that the membership of committees and related bodies is proportionate to individual group membership

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Not Applicable

Cabinet Member

Keith Barrow

Local Member

All

Appendices