



Committee and date  
Council

24 February 2011

10.00 a.m.

Item No

**16**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

**Responsible Officer** Richard Thomas

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### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report concerns the effect of the recent by-election for the Quarry and Coton Hill Electoral Division.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Council confirms the revised allocation of seats to each of the political groups and the changes which are consequential on the result of the by-election.

## **REPORT**

### **3.0 Background**

- 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, panels, etc. at each annual meeting or as soon as practicable after group numbers change. The regulations require that all Scrutiny, Standing and Regulatory Committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places. Subject to that overriding requirement, each committee must also be politically balanced, as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 3.2 The Executive (Cabinet) is not subject to the political balance rules and neither is the Standards Committee.
- 3.3 Advisory Committees and other ad-hoc bodies and groups are not subject to the political balance rules either, but traditionally political proportionality has been applied to them outside the overall aggregate balance referred to above.

### **4.0 Allocation of Seats**

- 4.1 The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the remainder of the municipal year. In accordance with the

Political Balance Rules, the maximum number of seats available to each of the groups will be:

Conservatives	68 seats
Liberal Democrats	17 seats
Labour	9 seats
Independents	3 seats
<b>Total</b>	<b>97 seats</b>

- 4.2 The effect of the Quarry and Coton Hill by-election is that the Conservative Group must relinquish one seat on the Economic Development Committee to the Liberal Democrat Group.
- 4.3 The change to the political balance does not affect either the Area Planning or Licensing Committees for the Central Area. Neither does it affect the Council's entitlement to seats on the Shropshire and Wrekin Combined Fire Authority or the West Mercia Police Authority.

**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 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**