

## **Allocation of Committee Seats and Appointments**

**Responsible  
Officer**

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### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 A recent change in group membership as a result of Councillor Andy Boddington leaving the Liberal Democrat Group requires amendments to the distribution of seats on committees, and other bodies to which proportionality rules apply. The report also deals with other appointments.

### **2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1 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 that meeting. 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 it is reasonably practicable.
- 2.2 The Executive (Cabinet) is not subject to the political balance rules.
- 2.3 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 in paragraph 2.1 above.

- 2.4 The Council has been advised that Councillor Andy Boddington is no longer a member of the Liberal Democrat Group and intends to continue without affiliation to any of the current political groups.
- 2.5 Accordingly, it is necessary to review the membership of committees to reflect this change in the relative size of the political groups.
- 2.6 Councillor Boddington, as a Non Affiliated member, is entitled to be appointed to one of the Councils Committees.
- 2.7 In addition, since the last meeting of the Council, we have been notified of the appointment of an additional substitute member on the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the Council confirms the revised allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2021/22 municipal year as a consequence of the change in group membership as follows:
- a) That the composition and revised allocation of seats on its committees and other bodies as detailed in the report be approved.
  - b) That the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group provides notification of which if its members will continue as a member of the South Planning Committee.
  - c) That Councillor Boddington be appointed to the South Planning Committee.
- 3.2 That following changes to committee membership be noted:

#### Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Nick Hignett appointed as a substitute member of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

## REPORT

### 4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

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

### 5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious financial implications.

### 6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious impact in terms of climate change.

### 7. Background

- 7.1 The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the remainder of the coming year. In accordance with the Political Balance Rules, the revised maximum number of seats available to each of the groups will be:

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Seats per Group</b>
Conservatives	66
Liberal Democrats	20 (-1)
Labour	14
Independent	7
Green	6
Other	1 (+1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>

- 7.2 Since the last Council meeting, notification has been received of changes to the membership of Committees.

### 8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The effect of the recent change in membership of the Liberal Democrat Group is that the Group is entitled to one less committee seat.

- 8.2 A non affiliated Member is entitled to be allocated, by the Council, one seat on a Committee.
- 8.3 Councillor Boddington has expressed his wish that he be allocated a seat on the South Planning Committee.
- 7.5 In order to achieve this while maintaining political balance, the Liberal Democrat Group will relinquish one seat on the South Planning Committee.

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

None

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) –** Leader of the Council

**Local Member -** All

**Appendices**

None