

Committee and Date

Council 07 July 2022

<u>ltem</u>
<u>Public</u>

Allocation of Committee Seats and Appointments

Respons	sible Tim Collard	
Officer		
e-mail:	<u>Tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk</u>	Tel: 252756

1. Synopsis

1.1 A recent change in membership, as a result of the election of Councillor Mark Williams to the Highley division, requires amendments to the distribution of seats on committees, and other bodies to which proportionality rules apply.

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 Williams is to be a member of the Liberal Democrat Group. The by-election was

required to be held following the resignation of Dave Tremellen, who had been a member of the Independent Group.

- 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 In order to accurately reflect the political balance of the authority, it is necessary that an additional seat on the Southern Planning Committee be allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group at the expense of the Independent Group.

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 of its members will be appointed as a member of the Southern Planning 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.

Contact: Tim Collard 01743252756 tim.collard @shropshire.gov.uk

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:

Group Name	Seats per Group
Conservatives	66
Liberal Democrats	21 (+1)
Labour	14
Independent	6 (-1)
Green	6
Other	1
Total	114

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 additional committee seat at the expense of the Independent Group.

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