

- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 Following her election to the Bridgnorth West and Tasley Division, the Council has been advised that Councillor Connolly is to be a member of the Labour Group. The by-election was required to be held following the passing of Les Winwood, who had been a member of the Conservative Group.
- 2.6 A notice has been received to confirm that Councillor Andy Boddington has joined the Liberal Democrat group. He was previously not aligned to any political group.
- 2.7 Accordingly, it is necessary to review the membership of committees to reflect this change in the relative size of the political groups.
- 2.8 In order to accurately reflect the political balance of the authority, it is suggested that the most appropriate option is to reduce the number of seats on each of the Scrutiny Committees from 10 to 9. As a consequence, the Conservative membership on each of the Scrutiny Committees will be reduced by one to five. In order to maintain political balance across the Councils Committees, one seat on the Housing Supervisory Board will be lost by the Independent Group and re-allocated to the Liberal Democrat group. The Independent Group will be allocated a seat on the Southern Planning Committee.
- 2.9 In addition, since the last meeting of the Council, a number of changes have been made to the membership of Committees.

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 Conservative Group provides notification of which of its members will be removed from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- c) That the Leader of the Independent Group provides notification of which of its members will be allocated to the Southern Planning Committee.
- d) That the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group provides notification of which of its members will be allocated to the Housing Supervisory Board.

3.2 The following changes to committee membership be noted:

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Heather Kidd to replace Councillor Richard Huffer as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Roger Evans to replace Councillor Heather Kidd as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Ed Potter to replace Councillor Richard Marshall as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Nat Green to replace Councillor Alex Wagner as a member of the Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Alex Wagner to replace Councillor Nat Green as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Ed Potter to be appointed as a substitute member of the Northern 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.

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	61	(-5)
Liberal Democrats	22	(+1)
Labour	14	
Independent	6	
Green	6	
Total	109	

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

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