



COUNCIL
27 November 2019

Report sponsor: Paul Simpson, Strategic
Director of Corporate Resources
Report author: Alex Hough, Acting Head of
Democracy

LATE
ITEM

Constitutional Appointments

Purpose

- 1.1 Councillor Willoughby has informed the Monitoring Officer of his intention to resign from the Conservative Group and sit as a Liberal Democrat Councillor, with effect from 26 November 2019.
- 1.2 Changes are required to the constitutional appointments usually made at the Council's AGM, to ensure compliance with requirements in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which dictate the political composition of committees.
- 1.3 The changes proposed are detailed at 4.1 of the report.

Recommendation

- 2.1 To amend appointments to the Council's committees and joint bodies as detailed at 4.1 of the report, subject to individual nominations being received by the Monitoring Officer from Group Leaders.

Reasons

- 3.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 stipulates requirements as to the composition of committees, arising from recommendations contained in the Widdicombe Report on the conduct of local authority business (1986).
- 3.2 Those rules state that the composition of committees shall reflect that of the Council, as far as reasonable. The principles applied to achieve this are:
 - a) Not all seats are allocated to the same group;
 - b) A political group with an overall majority gets a majority of seats allocated;
 - c) Subject to (a) and (b), the total number of seats each political group has on all ordinary meetings is in proportion to that group's share of the total Council elected membership; and
 - d) Subject to (a) and (c), each political group has the same proportion of seats as it holds on the Council as a whole.

Supporting information

- 4.1 In order to comply with the requirements set out at 3.2, the following changes to constitutional appointments are proposed:
- The Liberal Democrat Group inherit an additional position on the Audit and Accounts Committee
 - An additional Conservative councillor is appointed to the Audit and Accounts Committee and that the existing Independent vacancy is removed.
 - A Liberal Democrat councillor is removed from the Executive Scrutiny Board and a Conservative councillor is appointed.
 - A Liberal Democrat councillor is removed from the Corporate Services Scrutiny Board and a Conservative councillor is appointed.
 - A Conservative councillor is removed from the Adults and Health Scrutiny Board and a Liberal Democrat councillor is appointed.
- 4.2 Due to the short timescale between the announcement of Councillor Willoughby's decision and the Council meeting of 27 November, it has not been possible for nominations to these positions to be identified.

Subject to the approval of recommendation 2.1, these positions can subsequently be appointed to under the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Service's delegation to give effect to the wishes of political groups on appointments to relevant bodies.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Group Leaders and individual councillors affected have been consulted on the proposed changes and will make nominations to available positions.

Other options

- 6.1 Do nothing. The allocation of committee places would not be in accordance with the requirements set out at 3.2.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None.

Legal implications

- 8.1 As detailed at 3.1 to 3.2.

Other significant implications

9.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)	Emily Feenan, Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services	27 November 2019
Report sponsor	Paul Simpson, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources	27 November 2019
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	None