

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
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<b>Portfolio Leader:</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Report Track:</b>	<b>Council 16/11/22</b>

**Council**  
**16 November 2022**  
**Allocation of Seats to Committees and Other Bodies**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 For Council to determine the allocation of seats to political groups duly constituted, to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies, following recent District by-elections that resulted in the election of two ward councillors, and the resignation of a councillor on 11 November.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That the allocation of seats to the different political groups to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be confirmed.

**3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 At the Annual Council meeting held on 25 May 2022, Council confirmed the allocation of seats to committees and other bodies to the political groups following the District elections held on 5 May 2022 that resulted in the election of 13 ward councillors.
- 3.2 Since then, it has been necessary to hold two District by-elections following resignations of councillors in the Hednesford North and Cannock West wards. The by-elections took place on 8 September, and 10 November 2022, respectively, resulting in the election of two ward councillors.

Additionally, a resignation occurred for a seat in the Etching Hill and The Heath ward on 11 November 2022.

As such, it has been necessary to review the allocation of seats to Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies to ensure the allocations are proportionate to the membership of each political group.

- 3.3 Council is required to confirm the allocation of seats to the different political groups in order that updated appointments of Members, Chairs, and Vice-Chairs to

Committees and Other Bodies can be subsequently considered under item 9 of the agenda for today's meeting.

**4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The Council, through its democratic process, supports the Council's Corporate Priorities.

**5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (and further regulations since) requires the Council to allocate seats to political parties in accordance with political balance rules. The Council has previously determined that the size of the Council's Committees is fixed at the start of the municipal year and remains fixed for that year.

In the event of any changes to party membership or a vacancy occurring during the year, the size of Committees would not change; the only change being the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules.

- 5.2 Council is required to consider the allocation of seats to the different political groups in relation to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies, to give effect to, and reflect, so far as reasonably practicable, the political balance of the Members of the Council.
- 5.3 At the recent by-elections, a Labour Party candidate was elected to the Hednesford North seat, and a Conservative candidate was elected to the Cannock West seat. The day after the by-election was held for Cannock West ward, a Conservative councillor resigned their seat in the Etching Hill and The Heath ward.

As a result, the overall political composition of the Council has changed as follows:

<b>Political Party</b>	<b>Political composition as at Annual Council - 25 May 2022</b>	<b>Political composition as at Council - 16 November 2022</b>
Conservatives	25	23
Labour	8	9
Chase Community Independents	3	3
Green Party	2	2
Liberal Democrats	2	2
Independent	1	1
Vacant	-	1

- 5.4 These changes have affected the overall allocation of seats to committees etc, as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

**6 Implications****6.1 Financial**

None.

**6.2 Legal**

The Council has a duty under Section 15(3) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the Act') to "determine the allocation to the different political groups into which the members of the authority are divided of all the seats which fall to be filled by appointments made from time to time by that authority...".

Sections 15(4) and (5) of the Act place a further duty upon the Council, in performing its obligations under subsection (3) above, to determine the allocation to different political groups of seats on Committees and Other Bodies, to give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the following principles:

- (a) That not all the seats are allocated to the same political group.
- (b) That the majority of the seats are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership,
- (c) Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Council as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council; and
- (d) Subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on Committees and Other Bodies as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.

**6.3 Human Resources**

None.

**6.4 Risk Management**

None.

**6.5 Equality & Diversity**

None.

**6.6 Climate Change**

None.

**7 Appendices to the Report**

Appendix 1: Political balance calculation as at 16 November 2022.

**POLITICAL BALANCE / ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES ETC. - FOR COUNCIL MEETING ON 16 NOVEMBER, 2022**

COMMITTEE	SEATS	CONSERVATIVE (23)			LABOUR (9)			CHASE COMMUNITY INDEPENDENTS (3) & GREEN (2)			LIB DEM (2)			INDEPENDENT (1)			VACANT (1)			TOTAL
		Pre-Change (Actual or Equiv)	Proposed	Diff	Pre-Change (Actual or Equiv)	Proposed	Diff	Pre-Change (Actual or Equiv)	Proposed	Diff	Pre-Change (Actual or Equiv)	Proposed	Diff	Pre-Change (Actual or Equiv)	Proposed	Diff	Pre-Change (Actual or Equiv)	Proposed	Diff	
<b>Council</b>	<b>41</b>	(05/22)	23		(05/22)	9		(05/22)	5		(05/22)	2		(05/22)	1		(05/22)	1		41
All Committees	78	47	44	-3	15	17	2	10	10	0	4	4	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	78
* Planning Control	15	9	8	-1	3	3	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	15
* Licensing & Public Protection	10	6	6	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Audit & Governance	7	4	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	7
Standards	7	4	4	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
<b>Scrutiny Committees</b>																				
*Economic Prosperity	13	8	7	-1	3	3	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
*Responsible Council	13	8	7	-1	2	3	1	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
*Health, Wellbeing, and The Community	13	8	8	0	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	13
<b>ACTUAL SEAT ALLOCATION</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>78</b>
** TU Consultative Forum	7	4	4	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
** Appeals & Complaints Panel	5	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
** Appointments Panel	9	5	5	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
** Constitution Working Group	6	4	3	-1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	27	16	15	-1	6	7	1	3	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	27

KEY:

\* These Committees shall have named substitutes of one Councillor from each political group

\*\* Although not a Council Committee, political balance calculation applies