

Report of:	Managing Director
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Portfolio Leader:	Leader of the Council
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Council: 18/10/17

COUNCIL
18 OCTOBER, 2017
AMENDMENTS TO THE MEMBERSHIPS OF COMMITTEES
AND OTHER BODIES

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Council is requested to confirm approval of changes to the memberships of certain of the Council's Committees and Other Bodies as previously agreed at the Annual Council Meeting on 24 May, 2017.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the membership of the Council's Committees and Other Bodies, as previously agreed, be amended in accordance with the revised political balance calculation, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, and as detailed in the Schedule of Memberships to be circulated at the meeting.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 Appointments and amendments to the named memberships of Committees and Other Bodies are a matter for determination by Council at its Annual Council Meeting or any subsequent meeting of the Council, as appropriate.

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) require the Council to allocate seats to the political parties in accordance with the political balance rules. At its Annual Meeting on 24 May, 2017, Council considered and confirmed the appointment of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and

Members to Committees as proposed by each of the Group Leaders in accordance with a political balance calculation that had previously been circulated to them.

5.2 Since the appointments were made, changes have occurred affecting the political balance of the Council. These are detailed below:

- Two Members who were formerly in the UKIP Group have been accepted as members of the Conservative Group on Council.
- These changes broadly coincided with the loss of two Conservative seats as the result of (i) the death of a Member; and (ii) the loss of another owing to a failure to attend a meeting for a period of six months.
- There was a resignation from the Labour Group, with the Member indicating that she wished to be considered as an 'independent' member of the Council.

5.3 By-elections to fill the two ward vacancies were held on 7 September, 2017. These resulted in a Labour Party candidate being elected to the Hednesford Green Heath seat, while a Green Party candidate won the Hednesford South seat. As a result, the overall numbers on Council are as follows:

Labour	21	
Conservative	13	
Green	2	
Others	5	(3 x Independents; 1 x Liberal Democrat; 1 x UKIP)

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

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

None.

6.2 Legal

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

Section 15(4) and (5) of the Act places 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 Cabinet, Committees, Select Committees and Other Bodies, so as 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 which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the 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 the seats which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on Cabinet, Committees, Select 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 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

None.

6.5 Human Rights Act

None.

6.6 Data Protection

None.

6.7 Risk Management

None.

6.8 Equality & Diversity

None.

6.9 Best Value

None.

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1 Political Balance Calculation as at 8 September, 2017

Previous Consideration

Appointment of Members, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies	Annual Council Meeting	24 May, 2017
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Background Papers

None

ITEM NO. 9.5

POLITICAL BALANCE / ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES ETC. - FOR COUNCIL MEETING ON 18 OCTOBER 2017
 FOLLOWS: (i) 2 CLLRS MOVING FROM UKIP TO CONS; (ii) 2 x VACANCIES CREATED BY (a) DEATH OF A CLLR (29/06/17); (b) FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS (20/07/17);
 (c) BY-ELECTIONS (07/09/17) RESULTS: +1 x LABOUR; and +1 x GREEN COUNCILLORS

COMMITTEE	SEATS	21				13				2				5				TOTAL
		Pro Rata	Pre-Change (Actual or Equiv)	Proposed	Diff	Pro Rata	Pre-Change (Actual or Equiv)	Proposed	Diff	Pro Rata	Pre-Change (Actual or Equiv)	Proposed	Diff	Pro Rata	Pre-Change (Actual or Equiv)	Proposed	Diff	
Council	41	21	(05/17)			13	(05/17)			2	(05/17)			5	(05/17)			41
All Committees	91	46.61	47	47	0	28.85	29	29	0	4.44	0	4	4	11.10	8	11	3	91
* Planning Control	15	7.68	8	8	0	4.76	5	5	0	0.73	0	0	0	1.83	1	2	1	15
* Licensing & Public Protection	10	5.12	5	5	0	3.17	3	3	0	0.49	0	1	1	1.22	1	1	0	10
Audit & Governance	7	3.59	3	4	1	2.22	2	2	0	0.34	0	0	0	0.85	1	1	0	7
Standards	7	3.59	3	3	0	2.22	3	3	0	0.34	0	0	0	0.85	1	1	0	7
Scrutiny Committees																		
* Customers & Corporate	13	6.66	7	7	0	4.12	4	4	0	0.63	0	1	1	1.59	1	1	0	13
* Economic Devt. & Town Centres	13	6.66	7	7	0	4.12	4	4	0	0.63	0	0	0	1.59	1	2	1	13
* Health, Culture & Environment	13	6.66	7	7	0	4.12	4	4	0	0.63	0	1	1	1.59	1	1	0	13
* Housing, Crime & Partnerships	13	6.66	7	6	-1	4.12	4	4	0	0.63	0	1	1	1.59	1	2	1	13
ACTUAL SEAT ALLOCATION		46.61		47	0	28.85		29	0	4.44		4	4	11.10		11	3	91
** TU Consultative Working Group	7	3.59	4	4	0	2.22	2	2	0	0.34	0	0	0	0.85	0	1	1	7
** Delivering Change Panel	7	3.59	4	3	-1	2.22	2	2	0	0.34	0	1	1	0.85	1	1	0	7
** Appeals & Complaints Panel	5	3.00	3	3	0	2.00	2	2	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5
** Appointments Panel	9	4.61	5	5	0	2.85	3	3	0	0.44	0	0	0	1.10	0	1	1	9
** Constitution Working Group	6	3.07	3	3	0	1.90	2	2	0	0.29	0	0	0	0.73	1	1	0	6
** Shared Services Wrkg Grp	11	5.63	6	6	0	3.49	3	3	0	0.54	0	1	1	1.34	1	1	0	11
	45	23.49		24	-1	14.68	14	14	0	1.95	0	2	2	4.88	3	5	2	45

KEY:

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

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