

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**14 DECEMBER, 2011**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 Council is requested to determine the allocation of seats to different Political Groups duly constituted, to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies as a result of changes to the numbers of Members in the Liberal Democrat and Liberal Groups.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the allocation of seats to the different Political Groups to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies as set out in Annex 1 be approved.
- 2.2 That the allocation of seats approved under 2.1 above, take effect forthwith.
- 2.3 That, as appropriate, the affected Political Group Leaders notify the Chief Executive, within 5 working days, of the names of those Members to be appointed / removed from the Council's Committees and other bodies.

**3. Summary (including overview of relevant background)**

- 3.1 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. 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 course of the year, the size of Committees would not change; the only change would be the allocation of seats to political parties in accordance with the political balance rules.
- 3.2 Council is required to consider the allocation of seats to the different political groups in relation to the Council's Committees and other bodies, so as to give effect to and reflect, so far as reasonably practicable, the political balance of the Members of the Council.
- 3.3 The Chief Executive received notification on 1 December, 2011, that Councillors A. Williams and Mrs. D.J. Bennett were members of the Liberal Party and wished to be recognised as the Liberal

Group on the Council. As a result, the allocation of seats to the Liberal Democrat and Liberal Groups, respectively, have been recalculated in accordance with the political balance rules.

**4. Key Issues and Implications**

4.1 The allocation of seats to the different political groups to the Council's Committees and other bodies as set out in Annex 1

4.2 A number of Committees affected by the changes to the political balance will be meeting over the coming weeks. Therefore, if they have not already done so, each of the Political Group Leaders are asked to notify the Chief Executive, within 5 working days, of the names of those Members to be appointed to / removed from Committees and Other Bodies, to ensure appropriate political balance.

**5. Conclusions and Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)**

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. 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 course of the year, the size of Committees would not change. The only change would be the allocation of seats to political parties in accordance with the political balance rules.

**6. Other Options Considered**

6.1 No other options have been considered.

**7. Report Author**

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**Section 1**

**Contribution to Council Priorities**

The Council, through its democratic process, contributes to the Council's priorities and strategic objectives.

**Section 2**

**Contribution to Promoting Community Engagement**

There are no identified contributions to promoting community engagement arising from this report

**Section 3**

**Financial Implications**

There are no identified Financial Implications arising from this report.

**Section 4**

**Legal Implications**

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.

**Section 5**

**Human Resource Implications**

There are no identified Human Resource implications arising from this report.

**Section 6**

**Section 17 (Crime Prevention) Implications**

There are no identified implications in respect of Section 17 (Crime Prevention) arising from this report.

**Section 7**

**Human Rights Act Implications**

There are no identified implications in respect of Human Rights Act arising from this report.

**Section 8**

**Data Protection Act Implications**

There are no identified implications in respect of Data Protection Act arising from this report.

**Section 9**

**Risk Management Implications**

There are no identified implications in respect of Risk Management arising from this report.

**Section 10**

**Equality and Diversity Implications**

There are no identified equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

**Section 11**

**List of Background Papers**

N/A

**Section 12**

**Report History**

N/A

**Annexes to the Report**

Annex 1      Political Balance Calculation as at 1 December, 2011

