

Political Balance of the Council and Appointment of Committees

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor R Hollingworth
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Members are asked to note the change to the political balance of the Council and to agree resulting changes to the Council's Boards and Committees.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council note the establishment of a new political group, the Independent Alliance;
- 2.2 That the political balance of the membership of the Committees be agreed as set out in the table in Appendix 1 of the report until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or until the next review of political representation under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, whichever is the earlier.
- 2.2 That Members be appointed to the Committees in accordance with nominations to be made by Group Leaders.
- 2.3 That the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services be authorised to make any consequential changes to the Council's Constitution arising from 2.2.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 Sections 15 -17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 place a duty on Councils to allocate the seats on certain committees in proportion to the size of the political groups on the Council.
- 3.3 Details of how this is achieved and maintained are set out in associated Regulations. In accordance with these, we have been notified of the establishment of a new political group on the Council, the Independent Alliance, which is made up of 4 Councillors with Councillor Baxter as the Group Leader.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.4 The Council is required by law and/or its own Constitution to appoint various Boards and Committees and to agree the allocation of seats which are subject to the rules of political proportionality.
- 3.5 This means that the political balance of the Council needs to be reflected in the political composition of individual Boards and Committees. In addition, the total number of seats allocated to each group must reflect the political balance of the Council.
- 3.6 The Council has previously agreed the allocation of seats to Boards and Committees for 2013-14 but is required by law to review these when there are changes to the size of political groups.
- 3.7 The proposed allocation of seats on each Board/Committee is done on a strict mathematical basis. At the time of writing the report the calculations are being worked on and these will be made available as soon as possible.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.8 No implications have been identified.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 There are no significant risks associated with this item.

5. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Proposed Committees & allocation of Committee Places
February 2014 (to follow)

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Notice from the Independent Alliance stating the formation of the political group.

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