

Report to: Council

Date of Meeting 9th December 2020

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A



Changes to governance arrangements

Report summary:

This report is necessary to address changes to the political balance and committee allocations arising from Cllr Millar leaving the Democratic Alliance Group.

Recommendation:

That Council agrees;

1. The revised political balance and number of seats for the political groups as set out in the table at paragraph 2;
2. The change in committee seats so that the Democratic Alliance Group lose and the Independent Progressive Group gain a seat on the Audit & Governance Committee;
3. The revisions to the Committee appointments and the appointment of the Vice Chair of Audit & Governance as detailed in paragraph 5;
4. To amend the Constitution to give delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to revise the makeup of the Panels, Forums and Joint Bodies when there are changes to the Portfolios or Assistant Portfolio positions in year.

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure that the Council's governance arrangements are up to date and appropriate.

Officer: Henry Gordon Lennox, Monitoring Officer

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Corporate Services and COVID-19 Response and Recovery
- Democracy and Transparency
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Policy Co-ordination and Regional Engagement
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities

Financial implications:

There are no financial implications arising.

Legal implications:

It is a legal requirement to address any changes to the political balance / committee allocations as soon as reasonably practicable.

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information: None

Link to [Council Plan](#):

Priorities (check which apply)

- Outstanding Place and Environment
- Outstanding Homes and Communities
- Outstanding Economic Growth, Productivity, and Prosperity
- Outstanding Council and Council Services

Report in full

1. This report seeks to address the need to address changes to the political balance and committee allocations arising from Cllr Millar leaving the Democratic Alliance Group.

Political balance

2. As a consequence of Cllr Millar leaving the Democratic Alliance Group and becoming Independent (non-affiliated) there is a change to the political balance. The revised balance and seat numbers is detailed in the table below;

Democratic Alliance group	23 members	38.34%	45 seats
Conservative group	20 members	33.33 %	38 seats
Independent Progressive Group	7 members	11.67%	14 seats
The Independents	5 members	8.33%	10 seats
Cranbrook Voice	3 members	5%	6 seats
Independent (non-affiliated)	2 members	3.33%	0 seats
Total seats	60	100	113

3. In essence the Democratic Alliance Group lose one seat and the Independent Progressive Group gain one seat, this seat being on the Audit & Governance Committee.

Committee appointments

4. Councillor Millar has resigned from the Audit & Governance committee, leaving the Vice Chair position vacant. In leaving Cabinet, and with Councillor Jackson being appointed as the new Portfolio Holder for Democracy & Transparency, there are some further changes required. Cllr Jackson can no longer serve on the Licensing & Enforcement or Overview Committees and so replacement appointees for the Democratic Alliance Group are required.
5. Having discussed with the relevant Group Leaders, the following is proposed;

- a. Cllr King be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

- b. Cllr Hookway be appointed by the Independent Progressive Group to Audit & Governance to replace Councillor Millar.
- c. Cllrs Manley and Wragg from the Democratic Alliance Group be appointed to Overview and Licensing & Enforcement Committees respectively to replace Cllr Jackson.

Amendment to the Monitoring Officer's delegated authority

- 6. In light of the possibility of changes to Portfolio Holders and / or Assistant Portfolio Holders in year and to avoid reports having to come back to Council for such changes, it is recommended that the Constitution be amended to give delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to revise the makeup of Panels, Forums and Joint Bodies when there are changes to the portfolios or Assistant Portfolio Holders in year.