

Report to: Council
Date of Meeting: 26th February 2020
Public Document: Yes
Exemption: None
Review date for release None



Subject: **Change to the political balance, the committee allocations and the Constitution.**

Purpose of report: Following Cllr Whibley leaving the Independent Group and Cllr Millar joining the Independent EDA it is necessary to make changes to the political framework.

Recommendation: **That Council;**

- 1. Agrees to the changes to the political balance detailed in paragraph 2 and revisions to the Committee allocations set out in Appendix A.**
- 2. Agree the changes to the committee appointments detailed in paragraph 5 below and the change to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee detailed in paragraph 6 below.**

Reason for recommendation: To update the political balance following Cllr Whibley leaving the Independent Group and Cllr Millar joining the Independent EDA and effect changes that flow from that.

Officer: Henry Gordon Lennox, Monitoring Officer

Portfolio Holder: Choose Portfolio Holder.

Financial implications: There are no financial implications.

Legal implications: Only Full Council can amend the Constitution and, outside of the arrangements applicable to the Executive, make appointments.

Equalities impact: Low Impact

Climate change: Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk

Links to background information:

- [Annual Council 22nd May 2019](#)
- [Full Council 23rd October 2019](#)

Link to [Council Plan](#): Outstanding Council and Council Services

Political balance and Committee allocations

1. Following the resignation of Cllr Whibley from the Independent Group and Cllr Millar joining the Independent EDA Group it is necessary to revise the political balance of the Council and amend the committee allocations and membership accordingly.

Revised political balance

2. The revised political balance is detailed in the table below and Council is asked to agree that the allocation to different political groups of seats to be filled by the Council be determined as follows in respect of overview, regulatory and other committees.

Independent Group	(18 members) – 30%	32 seats
Conservative Group	(19 members) – 32%	35 seats
Independent EDA	(12 members) – 20%	22 seats
Liberal Democrats Group	(8 members) – 13%	14 seats
Green Party	(2 members) – 3%	3 seats
Independent	(1 member) – 2%	2 seats
Total	(60) 100%	108 seats

3. The allocation of seats on individual overview/scrutiny, regulatory and other committees has been updated as a consequence and the revised allocations are contained in **Appendix A** to this report,

Revised Committee membership

4. To accommodate the above changes, and to ensure that the seats on the committees are allocated as per Appendix A, the following changes are necessary;

Independent Group – **gain** a seat on the Overview Committee but **lose** a seat on each of the HRB, Standards, Interviewing Chief Officer and Employment Appeals Committees

Conservatives – *no changes*

Independent EDA – **gain** a seat on the Strategic Planning, Overview and Employment Appeals Committees

Liberal Democrats – **gain** a seat on the HRB and Standards Committees but **lose** a seat on the Audit & Governance and Overview Committees

Green Party – **gain** a seat on Interviewing Chief Officers Committee but **lose** a seat on the Strategic Planning Committee

Independent Independents – **gain** a seat on Audit & Governance Committee but **lose** a seat on the Overview Committee

5. The Group Leaders have advised of the following changes to facilitate this or which are otherwise required;
- a. Independent Group are allocating their Overview seat to Cllr C Wright and removing Cllrs Bloxham, McClauchlan, Thomas and Johns from HRB, Standards, Interviewing Chief Officer and Employment Appeals Committees respectively. The Scrutiny and Licensing & Enforcement Committee seats that were Cllr Whibley's are now to be given to Cllrs Johns.
 - b. Conservative Group are switching Cllr Dent and Cllr Brown from Scrutiny and Licensing and Enforcement respectively.
 - c. Independent EDA are allocating their Strategic Planning Committee, Overview and Employment Appeals Committee seats to Cllr Arnott, Cllr Millar and Cllr Hayward respectively.
 - d. Liberal Democrats are allocating their HRB and Standards seats to Cllrs Taylor and Rylance respectively and removing Cllrs Chamberlain from Audit & Governance and Overview respectively. They are also removing Cllr King from Strategic Planning Committee and allocating this seat to Cllr Chamberlain.
 - e. Green Party are allocating their Interviewing Chief Officers Committee seat to Cllr Woodward and removing Cllr Davey from the Strategic Planning Committee.
 - f. Cllr Whibley is allocated the Independent Independent seats on Licensing & Enforcement and Audit and Governance.

Change in Chairmanship of Scrutiny Committee

6. The Chair of Scrutiny, Cllr Dent is stepping down from the role and the Conservative Group are proposing to replace him with Cllr Brown. The Independent Group are changing the Vice Chair of Scrutiny so that Cllr McCollum replaces Cllr Bloxham.