



Report of:	Meeting	Date
The Leader of the Council, Councillor Michael Vincent and the Chief Executive, Rebecca Huddleston	Council	6 July 2023

Update to Appointments to Committees, Panels and Groups 2023/24

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To enable changes to be made to the membership of committees and other panels and groups for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1** Effective arrangements to carry out the Council's non-executive decision making and advisory functions.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** That the revised political balance calculations following the Warren Ward election held on Thursday 22 June 2023 as set out in Appendix 1, be noted.
- 3.2** That a Wyre Independent Group member, Councillor Sorensen, be removed from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3** That a Labour Group member, Councillor Blair, be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.4** That Councillor Brian Stephenson of the Labour Group be appointed to the Licensing Committee in place of Councillor Beavers of the Labour Group.

4. Background

- 4.1** On 22 June 2023 Wyre Council held a local election to fill the two vacancies in Warren ward. This election was delayed owing to the death of one of the candidates. The result of this election saw Maureen Blair and Brian Stephenson elected as councillors for Warren ward. As a

consequence, a change is required to the membership of committees, in order to comply with the political balance rules.

4.2 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act requires that the allocation of places on non-executive Committees of the Council be allocated on the following criteria:

- (a) that not all seats on a body are allocated to the same Political Group;
- (b) that the majority of seats on a body is allocated to a particular Political Group, if the number of persons belonging to that Group is the majority of the Authority's membership;
- (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary Committees of a relevant Authority which are allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of that Authority;
- (d) subject to paragraphs (a) - (c) above, that the number of seats on a body which are allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the number of all seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that Group in membership of the Authority.

4.3 Following the Warren ward elections on 22 June 2023 the political composition of the Council is:

Conservative	30 members
Labour	17 members
Wyre Independents	3 members

4.4 There are a total of 60 seats available on the Committees appointed by the Council. The application of the calculations in paragraph 4.2 leads to an overall allocation of 37 seats to the Conservative Group, 20 seats to the Labour Group and 3 seats to the Wyre Independents Group.

4.5 In order to meet, as closely as possible, the political balance requirements on **each committee** (as set out in Section 5(d) of the 1989 Act), as well as the proportion of the total seats on all committees (set out in Section 15c of the 1989 Act), it is proposed that places be allocated on committees as show in the table in paragraph 5.1 below.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 The application of the political balance rules to these committees provides for the allocation of seats as follows:

	Con	Lab	Ind
Audit & Standards Committee (12)	7	4	1

Licensing Committee (12)	7	4	1
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12)	7	5	0
Planning Committee (12)	7	4	1
Employment & Appeals Committee (4)	3	1	0
Senior Officers Appointments Committee (4)	3	1	0
Senior Officers Disciplinary Committee (4)	3	1	0
	37	20	3

5.2 The committee memberships have been reviewed in order to meet criteria b of the Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act, as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of this report, each committee must have a majority membership of the majority group, in this case the Conservative Group. Negotiations with the Leaders of the Labour Group and the Wyre Independent Group were held in order for the Conservative Group to keep their majority on these committees without being required to reduce committee sizes. These discussions resulted in a membership change to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the removal of a Wyre Independent Group member (Cllr Sorensen) and the appointment of an additional Labour Group member (Cllr Blair). It was also requested by the Leader of the Labour Group to replace Councillor Beavers with Councillor Brian Stephenson on the Licensing Committee.

5.3 The full calculations are set out in Appendix 1.

5.4 Approval of the recommendations set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.4 will enable these proposals to be implemented and compliance with the legal requirements to be met.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal	The proposals in this report are in accordance with legal requirements, as set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x

sustainability	x
health and safety	x

ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

List of appendices

Appendix 1: Political balance calculations