



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive	Council	30 November 2023

Appointments to Committees, Panels and Groups

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. Corporate priorities

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

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** That Councillor Rushforth of the Wyre Independent Group be appointed to the Audit and Standards Committee in place of Councillor Sorensen, formerly of the Wyre Independent Group.
- 3.2** That Councillor Rimmer of the Wyre Independent Group be appointed to the Councillor Development Group in place of Councillor Sorensen, formerly of the Wyre Independent Group.

4. Background

- 4.1** Following the elections in May 2023 a Wyre Independent Group was established with three members. Committee places were allocated according to the political balance calculations, in line with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act which requires that places on non-executive Committees of the Council be allocated according to specific criteria.
- 4.2** On 15 November 2023 Councillor Rushforth, Leader of the Wyre Independent Group, informed the Chief Executive that Councillor Sorensen was no longer a member of the Group with immediate effect in

accordance with Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 The political balance calculations have been reviewed following this change in the membership of the Wyre Independent Group, and there is no significant change. Consequently, it is proposed that the overall allocation of committee seats to the respective Groups is unaltered, 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
Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee (8)	5	3	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
	42	23	3

Councillor Development Group (12)	7	4	1
Planning Policy Working Group (12)	7	4	1

5.2 The statutory political balance rules relating to the allocation of places on committees do not have to be applied to panels and groups, although, the proposed allocations in this report do comply with those rules.

5.3 According to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989, which are expressly specified in paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, a single Member does not constitute a 'group', and any Independent unaligned Councillor is not automatically entitled to any committee seats. They can only be allocated a place (or places) if nominated by one of the groups.

5.4 The recommendations set out in Paragraph 3 reflect the changes required.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 No alternative options have been considered.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	The allowance for the Wyre Independent Group Leader has been recalculated to reflect the reduction in group members by one (a reduction of £94.56 in a full year based on 2023/24 allowances). This will result in a small

	saving (part year in 2023/24 and ongoing) against the Special Responsibility allowances budget.
Legal	The proposals in this report are in accordance with legal requirements, as referred to in section 4.2 and 5.3 of this report.
Climate Change	None arising directly from this 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
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	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

None.