



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive	Council	12 September 2024

Appointments to Committees and Lead Member roles

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 2024/25 Municipal Year.

2. Council priorities

- 2.1** A well run, forward-thinking council that puts customers first.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** That Councillor Steven Livesey of the Conservative Group be appointed to the Audit and Standards Committee in place of Councillor David Higgs of Reform UK.
- 3.2** That Councillor Andrea Kay of the Conservative Group be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor David Higgs of Reform UK.
- 3.3** That Councillor Andrea Kay of the Conservative Group be appointed to the Planning Committee in place of Councillor David Higgs of Reform UK.
- 3.4** That the appointment of Councillor Andrea Kay of the Conservative Group as the Lead Member for Children and Young People in place of Councillor Callum Baxter be noted.

4. Background

- 4.1** Following the elections in May 2023 committee places were allocated to political groups 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 to political groups according to specific criteria.

4.2 On 14 June 2024 Councillor Higgs informed the Chief Executive that he no longer wished to be treated as a member of the Conservative Group with immediate effect in accordance with Regulation 10 (b) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and had joined Reform UK. Because the allocation of seats on committees is made to political groups and not individuals, the seats that were previously allocated to the Conservative Group with Councillor Higgs as the Group's nominee have remained vacant since 14 June 2024.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 The political balance calculations have been reviewed following this change in the membership of the Conservative 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 and 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'. 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.

5.5 Councillor Baxter was appointed to the role of Lead Member for Children and Young People in September 2023 as part of a redistribution of Councillor Kay's workload. The appointment of a Lead Member is a matter for the Leader of the Council, and it was intended that the appointment would be reviewed again subsequently. As such, Councillor Kay will now re-take the role of Lead Member for Children and Young People.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 No alternative options have been considered.

Financial, Legal/MO, and Climate Change implications	
Finance	<p>The allowance for the Conservative Group Leader has been recalculated to reflect the reduction in group members by one (a reduction of £98.22 in a full year based on 2024/25 allowances). This will result in a small saving (part year in 2024/25 and ongoing) against the Special Responsibility allowances budget.</p> <p>The allowance for the Lead Member for Children and Young People is unchanged by this report at £250 per annum, the payment to be made to Councillor Kay instead of Councillor Baxter from the date following approval.</p>
Legal/MO	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.