

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item no.
The prospective Leader of the Council (Cllr David Henderson) and the Chief Executive (Garry Payne)	Council	7 December 2017	8

### Appointments to Committees

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To enable changes to be made to the membership of committees for the remainder of the 2017/18 Council 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 Cllr Ballard be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Cllr Michael Vincent.
- 3.2 That a Councillor to be nominated by the Labour Group be appointed to fill the current vacancy on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3. That Cllr Catterall be appointed to the Standards Committee in place of Cllr Michael Vincent.
- 3.4 That Cllr Lady Atkins and Cllr Ellison be appointed to the Planning Committee in place of Cllr S Turner and Cllr Jones.
- 3.5 That, in order to comply with political balance requirements, a Labour Group nominee be appointed to the Audit Committee in place of Cllr Ballard.
- 3.6 That four Members (two Conservative Group nominees and two Labour Group nominees) be appointed as potential substitutes for Standards Committee hearings, in the event of it not being possible to convene a meeting with a quorum of three members of the Standards Committee for

a particular hearing and that, when necessary, the Monitoring Officer be authorised to use the nominated substitutes to enable a quorum of three to be achieved.

- 3.7** That Cllr Kay be appointed as a second Armed Forces Champion (in addition to Terry Rogers).

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1** A number of changes need to be made to the membership of various committees following the appointment of a new Leader of the Council and other vacancies which have arisen, as follows:

- Once Cllr Michael Vincent is appointed to the Cabinet (under agenda item 7) he will no longer be eligible to be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which must comprise entirely of Councillors who do not form part of the Executive;
- Cllr Michael Vincent will also stand down from the Standards Committee when he is appointed to the Cabinet;
- Both Cllr S Turner and Cllr Jones have indicated that, owing to other commitments, they intend to resign from the Planning Committee following its next meeting on 6 December 2017;
- There is currently a vacancy on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. (At the Annual Council on 11 May 2017, only three Labour Councillors were nominated to fill the four places allocated to the Labour Group and, as such the Labour Group may choose to fill the vacancy).

There is also a need to make an adjustment to reflect the current political balance of the Council, as referred to in paragraph 5.4.

- 4.2** In addition to the above, difficulties have recently been experienced in convening a Standards Committee for a Code of Conduct hearing. This occurred as a number of the members had previously been involved in events related to the alleged breach. A mechanism to appoint substitute members, if necessary, is therefore required in order to allow for such circumstances in future. There are six Members on the Standards Committee and the quorum is three.

- 4.3** It is also considered desirable to take this opportunity to appoint a second Armed Forces Champion, owing to the increasing amount of work involved in the role. Terry Rogers is the current Champion. He was first appointed to that role when he was still a councillor and has continued to be re-appointed since then.

## 5. Key issues and proposals

5.1. Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the allocation of places on non-executive Committees of the Council must be allocated on the following criteria:

- (a) that all seats on a body are not 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.

5.2 The current political composition of the Council is:

Conservative	35 members	70%
Labour	13 members	26%
Independent	1 member	2%
Vacancy	1 Member	2%
Total	50 Members	100%

5.3 There are a total of 76 seats available on the Committees appointed by the Council. The application of the calculations in paragraph 5.1 therefore leads to an overall allocation of 53 seats to the Conservative Group, 20 seats to the Labour Group and a notional allocation of one or two seats to the Independent and one or two seats to be filled by the person elected to fill the current vacancy. However, under the provisions set out in 1989 Act referred to in paragraph 5.1 above and specifically clarified in paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, a single Member does not constitute a 'group' and the Independent Councillor is not automatically entitled to any places on any committees. He can only be allocated a place (or places) if nominated by one of the groups.

5.4 Currently, the actual allocation of seats does not exactly reflect the position set out in paragraph 5.3. The Conservative Group is currently over-represented by one seat on the Audit Committee and the Labour Group is under-represented by one seat on the Audit Committee (an 11:3 split rather than a 10:4 split). The figures will change marginally following the by-election for the Preesall Ward to be held on 11 January 2018, but will not

affect the allocation of seats. A change to the membership of the Audit Committee is therefore required.

- 5.5** The recommendations set out in Paragraph 3 reflect the other changes required.

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal	The proposals in this report are in accordance with legal requirements, as referred to in section 5 of 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.

<b>implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

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<b>List of background papers:</b>		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None	-	-

**List of appendices**

None.

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