

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

15th July 2021

COUNCILLOR WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HR AND CORPORATE SERVICES: COUNCILLOR MIKE HALLAM

Report Title Changes to Political Balance and Committee Places

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Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	29 June 2021
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Other Director/SME	N/A	N/A

List of Appendices

none

1. Purpose

1.1 This report invites Council to review the changes to the political balance of the Council and approve changes to membership of the Committees.

2. Recommendations

2.1.1 It is recommended that Council:

- a) Reviews the representation of different political groups on the Council;
- b) Determines the allocation of seats on committees to the different political groups as listed in Section 4.4 below;
- c) Appoints members to the committees listed in Section 4.5 below to give effect to the wishes expressed by the political groups to which the seats have been allocated.

3. Reason for Recommendations

- 1.2 The Council is required to review the allocation of committee seats from time-to-time in accordance with the relevant legislation. The Council is responsible for appointing members to committees.

4. Issues and Choices

Report Background

- 4.1 At its annual meeting on 20 May 2021, the Council confirmed the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats on committees between Political Groups.
- 4.2 Since that meeting, the number of seats held by the Conservative Group has reduced from 66 to 65. The member in question now sits as un-grouped independent member.
- 4.3 This change has necessitated a small recalculation of places on the Council's committees in order to maintain the correct political balance.
- 4.4 The allocation of seats between the committees is now as follows:

Committee	Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent Group	Ungrouped	Total
Licensing Committee A*	10	4	1	0	0	15
Licensing Committee B*	10	4	1	0	0	15
Strategic Planning Committee	10	2	1	0	0	13
Corporate Scrutiny Committee**	11 (was 12)	4	1	0	1	17
People Scrutiny Committee	10	4	0	1	0	15
Place Scrutiny Committee	10	4	0	1	0	15
Senior Appointments Committee	5	1	1	0	0	7
Audit and Governance Committee	6	2	1	0	0	9
Democracy and Standards Committee	7	1	1	0	0	9
Pensions Committee	5	2	0	0	0	7
Total	84	28	7	2	1	122

* same Members for both Licensing Committees

** In order to maintain the overall balance on the Council it is proposed to allocate a seat on the Corporate Scrutiny Committee (as the largest committee established by the Council) to an un-grouped independent councillor, as per section 3.6 below.

4.5 In addition to the change resulting from the revised political balance of the Council, the Conservative and Labour Groups would like to make changes to the membership of the following Committees as detailed below:

Cabinet (for information only)

Councillor Mike Hallam to replace Councillor Lizzy Bowen as Cabinet Member for HR and Corporate Services

Councillor Lizzy Bowen - Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth. This position was previously vacant.

Licensing Committee

Councillor Janice Duffy to replace Councillor Emma Roberts.

Strategic Planning Committee

Councillor Jake Roberts. This position was previously "To be confirmed".

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Ian McCord to replace Councillor Brian Sargeant.

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Paul Dyball to replace Councillor Mike Hallam.

Pensions Committee

Councillor Malcolm Longley to replace Councillor Lizzy Bowen as Chair.

Investments Sub Committee

Councillors Phil Bignell, Malcolm Longley, Charles Morton and Cathrine Russell. Appointments to the Investments Sub Committee were made at the meeting of the Pensions Committee on 15 June 2021.

Local Pensions Board

Councillor Ken Pritchard. The position was previously "To be confirmed."

South Northants Area Planning Committee

Councillor Maggie Clubley to replace Councillor Louisa Fowler. Councillor Ken Pritchard to be Vice Chair.

5. Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Policy

5.1.1 None specifically.

5.2 Resources and Financial

5.2.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising.

5.3 Risk

5.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposals in this report.

5.4 Legal

5.4.1 The Council has obligations under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocations of seats. This was last completed at the meeting of Annual Council on 20 May 2021, since which time further changes have been made to the representation of political groups, requiring a further review to be undertaken.

5.5 Climate Impact

5.5.1 None specifically.

5.6 Community Impact

5.6.1 None specifically.

6 Background Papers

6.1 None.

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