Report to Council

Subject: Changes to committee and outside body representation

Date: 5 October 2011

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Following the recent by-election in Phoenix Ward, it has been necessary to review the allocation of committee places to political parties in line with the requirement to ensure that such places are allocated in proportion to the number of seats on the Council held by each party.

Applying the statutory formula, the Liberal Democrat success in the by-election results in a reduction of 1 committee place for the Labour Party and an increase of 1 committee place for the Liberal Democrats. In practice, within the current committee configuration, the Liberal Democrats gain a place on Planning Committee (increasing its membership from 1 to 2) with a corresponding reduction of 1 (from 13 to 12) in Labour representation on that Committee. The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group has requested that Cllr Ellwood should take up that place on Planning Committee.

In addition, the Business Manager for the Labour Group has requested one change to be made to committee representation previously agreed by Council, and one change to outside body representation.

The change to committee membership is for Cllr Ellis to replace Cllr WJ Clarke on the Environment and Licensing Committee. Cllr WJ Clarke is currently Vice-Chair of the Committee, so it has been further proposed by the Business Manager that Cllr Lawrence should take the role of Vice-Chair.

The change to outside body representation is for Cllr R Allan to replace Cllr Quilty as the Council's representative on the Industrial Communities Alliance.

Council is **recommended** to agree that: -
- Cllr Ellwood is appointed to the vacant place on Planning Committee
- Cllr Ellis replaces Cllr W J Clarke on Environment and Licensing Committee
- Cllr Lawrence is appointed Vice-Chair of Environment and Licensing Committee
- Cllr R Allan replaces Cllr Quilty as the Council's representative on the Industrial Communities Alliance.