

Report to Council

Subject: Changes to Political Balance

Date: 26 January 2022

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Purpose

Following the Cavendish Ward by election, the political balance of the Council has changed. As a result, the allocation of seats to committees must be updated and this report proposes to make the necessary changes.

Recommendation(s)

To approve the following changes to representation on committees to ensure that political balance is maintained:

- 1) Remove Councillor Elliott from the Audit Committee;**
- 2) Remove Councillor Parr from the Appeals and Retirement Committee;**
- 3) Remove Councillor Elliott from the Joint Consultative and Safety Committee;**
- 4) Add Councillor Dunkin as a member of the Audit Committee;**
- 5) Add Councillor Dunkin to as member of the Joint Consultative and Safety Committee; and**
- 6) Add Councillor Ellwood as a member of the Appeals and Retirements Committee.**

1 Background

- 1.1 In determining the membership of committees, account must be taken of the requirements of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and 1991 made under sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These regulations require that seats on committees and sub-committees are allocated to the political

groups in a way which reflects the overall political balance of the Council. A political group is defined as a group consisting of two or more members.

Following the Cavendish Ward by election, the political make-up of the Council is:

Labour Group	28 (-1)
Conservative Group	8 (-)
Independent Group	2 (-)
Liberal Democrat Group	3 (+1)

There are a total of 79 committee seats to be allocated for the remainder for the 2021/22 municipal year. The allocation of seats on the committees is as follows:

Committee	Total Seats	Lab	Con	Ind	Lib Dem
Planning Committee	16	11	3	1	1
Environment and Licensing Committee	11	7	2	1	1
Licensing Act Committee	11	7	2	1	1
Appeals and Retirements Committee	7	5	1 (-1)	0	1
Joint Consultative and Safety Committee	7	5	1 (-1)	0	1 (+1)
Audit Committee	7	5	1 (-1)	0	1 (+1)
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13	8	3	1	1
Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee	7	5	2	0	0
TOTAL	79	53	15 (-3)	4	7 (+3)

- 1.2 As a result of the by election, the Liberal Democrat Group need to be allocated three additional seats across the Committees of the Council.
- 1.3 In order to facilitate the required changes to representatives, the Group Leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups have provided the necessary nominations to seats.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed to make the following changes to memberships:

- Councillor Elliott to be removed from the Audit Committee;
- Councillor Parr to be removed from the Appeals and Retirement

Committee;

- Councillor Elliott to be removed from the Joint Consultative and Safety Committee;
- Councillor Dunkin to be added as a member of the Audit Committee;
- Councillor Dunkin to be added as member of the Joint Consultative and Safety Committee; and
- Councillor Ellwood to be added as a member of the Appeals and Retirements Committee.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Council may decide not to approve the recommendations as proposed. This would not be in accordance with the applicable legislation.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The legal implications are as detailed in this report.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 None

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None identified