

## **Report to Council**

**Subject:** Changes to political balance and committee memberships

**Date:** 17 October 2024

**Author:** Democratic Services Manager

### **Purpose**

Following the recent by-election in the Bestwood St Albans ward of the council, the political balance of the council has changed. As such, 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:**

- 1) Remove Councillor Ron McCrossen from the Joint Consultative and Safety and Committee; and**
- 2) Remove Councillor Creamer from the Audit Committee; and**
- 3) Remove Councillor Welsh from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and**
- 4) Add Councillor Creamer to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and**
- 5) Add Councillor Bestwick to the Audit Committee; and**
- 6) Add Councillor Maltby to the Joint Consultative and Safety and Committee; and**
- 7) Remove Councillor Martin Smith from Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and**
- 8) Add Councillor Maltby to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and**
- 9) Remove Councillor Bestwick from Standards Committee; and**
- 10) Add Councillor Martin Smith to Standards Committee**

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## 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 recent by-election in the Bestwood St Albans ward, there is a change to the political make-up of the Council, which is as follows:

Labour Group	26 (-)
Conservative Group	10 (+1)
Liberal Democrat Group	4 (-)
Independent members	1 (-1)

- 1.2 There are a total of 79 committee seats to be allocated for the 2024/25 municipal year. The allocation of seats on the committees is as follows:

Committee	Total seats	Lab	Con	Lib Dem	Ind
Planning	16	10	4	1	1
Environment & Licensing	11	7	3	1	0
Licensing Act	11	7	3	1	0
Appeals & Retirement	7	5	1	1	0
Joint Consultative & Safety	7	4 (-1)	2 (+1)	1	0
Audit	7	4 (-1)	2 (+1)	1	0
Overview & Scrutiny	13	8	3	1	1
Appointments & Conditions of Service	7	5	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>50 (-2)</b>	<b>19 (+2)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>

As a result of the by-election, the Conservatives need to be allocated two more seats across the committees of the council. The nominations for

amendments have been provided by the Labour and Conservative groups.

## **2 Proposal**

It is proposed to make the following changes to committee memberships:

- Remove Councillor Ron McCrossen from the Joint Consultative and Safety and Committee; and
- Remove Councillor Creamer from the Audit Committee; and
- Remove Councillor Welsh from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and
- Add Councillor Creamer to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and
- Add Councillor Bestwick to the Audit Committee; and
- Add Councillor Maltby to the Joint Consultative and Safety and Committee; and
- Remove Councillor Martin Smith from Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and
- Add Councillor Maltby to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and
- Remove Councillor Bestwick from Standards Committee; and
- Add Councillor Martin Smith to Standards Committee

## **3 Alternative Options**

Council may decide not to approve the recommendations as proposed. However, these proposals have been put forward by the two affected groups to ensure that membership of Committees reflects requirements in the constitution in terms of political committee make up and membership.

## **4 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **5 Legal Implications**

The legal implications are as detailed in this report.

## **6 Equalities Implications**

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

**7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications**

There are no environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

**8 Appendices**

None.

**9 Background Papers**

None.