

Report to Council

Subject: Changes to political balance and committee memberships

Date: 12 November 2025

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Purpose

Following a change in group membership, the political balance of the council has changed. As such, the allocation of seats to committees and the membership of the affected 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 Roxanne Ellis from Environment & Licensing Committee**
- 2) Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Licensing Act Committee**
- 3) Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Joint Consultative & Safety Committee**
- 4) Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Appeals & Retirement Committee**
- 5) Add Councillor Rachael Ellis to Joint Consultative & Safety Committee**
- 6) Add Councillor Creamer to Environment & Licensing Committee**
- 7) Add Councillor Creamer to Licensing Act Panel**
- 8) Add Councillor Sam Smith to Appeals & Retirement 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. Any singular member is not classed as a political grouping for the calculation of seat allocation.

Following a recent change in group membership, there is a change to the political make-up of the Council, which is as follows:

Political party/grouping	Number of councillors and change
Labour Group	25 (-1)
Conservative Group	9 (-)
Liberal Democrat Group	4 (-)
Independent Group	2 (-)
Independent members	1 (+1)

- 1.2 There are a total of 79 committee seats to be allocated for the 2025/26 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	2	1	1
Licensing Act	11	7	2	1	1
Appeals & Retirement	7	4 (-1)	2 (+1)	1	0
Joint Consultative & Safety	7	4	2	1	0
Audit	7	4	2	1	0
Overview & Scrutiny	13	8	3	1	1
Appointments & Conditions of Service	7	5	1	1	0
TOTAL	79	49 (-1)	18 (+1)	8	4

As a result of the changes, the Conservative group need to be allocated 1 more seat on the Appeals and Retirement Committee and 1 Labour member needs to be added to the Environment & Licencing Committee, the Licensing Act Panel and Joint Safety and Consultative Committee. The nominations for amendments have been provided by the Labour and Conservative groups.

As the Independent Member is not in a political grouping, no changes are required to the membership of the Standards Committee.

2 Proposal

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

- Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Environment & Licensing Committee
- Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Licensing Act Committee
- Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Joint Consultative & Safety Committee
- Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Appeals & Retirement Committee
- Add Councillor Rachael Ellis to Joint Consultative & Safety Committee
- Add Councillor Creamer to Environment & Licensing Committee
- Add Councillor Creamer to Licensing Act Panel
- Add Councillor Sam Smith to Appeals & Retirement 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.