

COUNCIL
15 SEPTEMBER 2016**CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

(a) Political Balance**Recommendation****1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommends that :**

- (a) the net reduction of 1 in the membership of the Conservative Group be noted; and**
- (b) the impact on political balance be considered and the revised allocation of seats on Committees as set out in this report (detailed in the attached Appendix) be agreed.**

Background

2. The Council is under a legal duty to ensure that the seats on its ordinary committees are allocated between the respective political Groups on the Council in accordance with the principles of political balance as far as is reasonably practicable.

3. These principles (in descending order) are that a majority group has a majority on each of the Council's ordinary committees; subject to that, as far as practicable the overall number of seats allocated to each of the Groups reflect political balance; and subject to both the above that seats on individual committees reflect political balance between the Groups.

4. Following the death of Mr Maurice Broomfield (Conservative Group) a by-election was held for the Ombersley Division on 11 August 2016. Mr Peter Tomlinson was duly elected and has joined the Conservative Group, and so the by-election has not affected political balance.

5. However, Mr Gordon Yarranton has resigned from the Conservative Group which therefore has a net reduction to 32 elected members. The overall political balance recalculation caused by that resignation means that the Conservative Group is due to lose 1 committee seat in total. As no other political Group gains it, that seat is due to be deleted. Therefore, as of 18 August 2016, the Political Group memberships (with 1 non-Grouped independent) are:

Conservative	32
Labour	11
2013	6
Independent Alliance	5
UKIP	2.

6. Mr Gordon Yarranton has not joined any other political Group and sits as an ungrouped independent member. There are no changes to the other political Groups which have no increased entitlement to committee seats.

Seat Allocations

7. Following the above principles, on balance the least disruptive option is to delete the additional seat awarded in February 2016 to the Conservatives (when they increased from 32 to 33 members) on the Waste Credit Governance Committee. The Council would thus revert to the political balance and numbers established in January 2016 (when Group memberships were identical to the current situation). The Waste Credit Governance Committee would revert to a total of 8 members, with 1 Conservative seat deleted, as set out in the attached Appendix.

(b) Vice Chairmanship of HOSC

Recommendation

8. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommends that the nominee of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), Mrs Frances Smith, be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the HOSC.

9. The Council from time to time appoints Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of member bodies to fill certain positions within its constitutional structures.

10. The Council is asked on an annual basis to agree the appointment of a Vice-Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee when the nomination of the District Councils has been made.

11. The Council's Constitution states that the Vice-Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to be selected by and from the District representatives on that Committee. The nomination from the District representatives made at the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 July 2016 was Mrs Frances Smith.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

Worcester (01905) 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specific Contact Points for this report

Simon Mallinson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Tel: 01905 846652

Email: smallinson@worcestershire.gov.uk

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.