

COUNCIL
12 NOVEMBER 2020**CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

Political Balance**Recommendation**

- 1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance recommends that Council approves the recalculation of political balance set out in Appendix 1 and requires him to give effect to it in accordance with the nominations from the respective Group leaders from time to time.**
2. The Council is divided into Political Groups and the size of these is used to calculate the allocation of seats to each of them on committees and panels.
3. Following recent changes to Group membership the Council is required to review the political balance. The changes are that the 2017 and Independent Alliance Groups have ceased, replaced by the Liberal Democrat and Independent and Green Alliance Groups respectively.
4. The membership of the political Groups as of 2 November 2020 is:
 - Conservative 41
 - Labour 9
 - Independent and Green Alliance (formerly Independent Alliance) 5 (+3)
 - Liberal Democrat (formerly 2017) 2 (-3)
5. Legislation requires that the allocation of seats on ordinary committees must, as far as reasonably practicable, be in accordance with the principles of political balance. These principles are based on the membership of political Groups within the Council which members join, rather than political parties as such.
6. Political balance principles are that the majority Group is entitled to a majority on each committee; subject to this, the aggregate allocation of committee seats overall should reflect political balance, and subject to this, individual committee membership should reflect political balance as far as practicable. Council can depart from these principles in allocating seats provided no member votes against doing so.
7. A proposed allocation of seats on Committees is set out in Appendix 1 reflecting the political composition of the Council, and which is compliant with the principles of political balance.
8. Changes in the individual membership of committees would be made by the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance in accordance with the nominations from the respective political Groups in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

(b) Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Member Bodies

Recommendation

9. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance recommends that the constitutional appointments as set out in Appendix 2 to this report be confirmed, including the appointment of the nominee of the District Council representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), Mrs Frances Smith, as Vice-Chairman of HOSC.

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

11. As a result of recent changes to the political balance there are some vacancies in various chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of Scrutiny Panels and thus Lead Scrutiny Members. The nominations for a number of appointments are set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

12. In addition, the Council is asked on an annual basis to agree the appointment of a Vice-Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) when the nomination of the District Councils has been made.

13. The Council's Constitution states that the Vice-Chairman of HOSC is to be selected by and from the District representatives on that Committee. The nomination from the District representatives made at HOSC on 30 September 2020 was Mrs Frances Smith (Wychavon District Council).

Contact Point

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Supporting information

Appendix 1 – Political Structures – Proposed Allocation of Places
Appendix 2 – Constitutional appointments

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers and Minutes of HOSC on 30 September 2020