

## **COUNCIL**

### **11 JANUARY 2024**

## **CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

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### **(a) Political Balance**

#### **Recommendation**

- 1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance recommends that Council approves the recalculation of political balance set out as an Appendix and requires her to give effect to it in accordance with the nominations from the respective Group leaders from time to time.**
2. The recent resignation of Cllr Bill Hopkins from the Conservative Group has required a recalculation of the proposed allocation of seats amongst the political Groups which meets the rules of political balance. Cllr Hopkins will be treated as an Independent Member and is entitled to an allocation of 2 seats. The Conservative group's allocation is reduced by 2 seats. There are no other changes.
3. A proposed allocation of seats on Committees is set out in the Appendix reflecting the political composition of the Council, and which is compliant with the principles of political balance. The Conservative Group are eligible to have 83 of seats on committees. GAIA and Unity groups are each eligible to have 14 of seats on committees. Cllr Hopkins as an independent member is entitled to have 2 seats on committees.
4. It is proposed that Cllr Hopkins retains his seats on Planning and Regulatory Committee and Waste Credit Governance Committee as an Independent member.
5. The membership of the political groups as of the date of this report is:
  - Conservative 42 (-1)
  - GAIA 7
  - Unity 7
  - Independent (not a group) 1
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. A proposed allocation of seats on Committees is set out in the Appendix reflecting the political composition of the Council, and which is compliant with the principles of political balance.

9. 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) Appointment to Independent Remuneration Panel**

### **Recommendation**

**10. The Chief Executive and Assistant Director for Legal and Governance recommend that the Council approves the appointment of Paul Stefanovic to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a term of office ending 30 November 2027.**

11. At its meeting in November 2023 the Council confirmed the appointment of a new member to the Independent Remuneration Panel, agreed the terms of office of Panel members and noted that a recruitment exercise would be carried out for the one remaining vacancy on the Panel.

12. Details of the vacancy were posted on the Council's website and social media channels and circulated to various organisations in the County. In accordance with the delegation from the Council the Chief Executive conducted interviews along with two of the current Panel members.

13. The Council is recommended to confirm the appointment of Paul Stefanovic to the Panel. Mr Stefanovic is based in Worcester and has extensive experience in the manufacturing sector within Worcestershire and the West Midlands, from shop floor to board room. His knowledge and skills will complement those of the other members and add to the perspectives of the Panel.

14. If the Council agrees to the appointment of Mr Stefanovic then the terms of office of Panel members will be:

Paul Jackson – 30 November 2025  
Richard Quallington – 30 November 2025  
Andrew Manning-Cox – 30 November 2027  
Raymond Tomkinson – 30 November 2027  
Paul Stefanovic – 30 November 2027

15. Panel members and the support officers recognise that despite encouraging interest in Panel membership from people from all backgrounds, the current membership lacks gender diversity. Recruitment to the two positions which will become vacant in 2025 will start at least 6 months before hand and efforts will be made to address this in advance of the recruitment exercise.

## **Supporting information**

Appendix – Political Structures – Proposed Allocation of Places

### **Contact Points**

Specific Contact Points for this report

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### **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report: