

COUNCIL
11 FEBRUARY 2016**CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS - CONTINUED**

(b) Political balance on Committees**Recommendation**

5. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommends that Council considers the political balance on committees and allocates the seat on the Waste Credit Governance Committee recently vacated by the Independent Alliance Group, following the Stourport-on-Severn by-election, to the Conservative Group.

6. The Council is under a legal duty to ensure that the seats on its committees are allocated between its respective Political Groups as far as is reasonably practicable in accordance with the principles of political balance, set out in the Constitutional report to January Council. That report reflected the Stourport-on-Severn by-election result in favour of the Conservatives. Mr A I Hardman has re-joined the Conservative Group which has therefore now increased to 33 members. There have been no further changes to Group membership.

7. Overall political balance suggests that as a consequence the Conservative Group should gain a committee seat. It is a matter for Council to determine but for convenience it is suggested that the seat lost by the Independent Alliance Group on the Waste Credit Governance Committee after the by-election could be awarded to the Conservative Group. This would return the Committee to its previously established size of 9 members.

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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.