

<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	Changes to Committee Membership
<u>Submitted by:</u>	Head of Business Improvement, Central Services & Partnerships
<u>Portfolio:</u>	Communications, Policy and Partnerships
<u>Ward(s) affected:</u>	N/A

Purpose of the Report

To request that Council agrees to the requested changes to the Membership of the Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee, Audit and Risk and the Planning Committee.

Recommendations

1. That the following changes in membership of committees are agreed as follows:

- I. That Cllr Simon White stand down as Vice Chair of Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee but remain as a member.**
- II. That Cllr Billy Welsh be replaced by Cllrs Mrs Gill Williams on the Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee.**
- III. That a Vice Chair of Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee be appointed as soon as possible (Nominations Cllrs Ian Wilkes and Mrs Gill Williams).**
- IV. That Cllr Mrs Sandra Hambleton be appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee.**
- V. That Cllr Billy Welsh replace Cllr Simon White on the Planning Committee.**
- VI. That Cllr Mrs Sandra Simpson be appointed to the Planning Committee.**
- VII. That a Vice Chair be appointed to the Planning Committee (Nomination: Cllr Bert Proctor).**

Background

Appendix 4 of the Council's Constitution (Scheme of Delegation) Section 22 states that:

'the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the appropriate political group can make appointments to all committees other than the Cabinet to give effect to the rules of political balance'.

This section of the Constitution relate, therefore, to the recommendations set out in this report.

Issues

The following proposals are outlined in this report for Council approval and relate to membership of the Council's committees:

Committee Membership Changes: Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee, Audit and Risk and the Planning Committee.

The following changes to Committee membership have been requested by the Leader of the Labour Group and, as these changes do not relate to matters of political balance, then the decision is one for Council to take:

Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee:

- Councillor Simon White stand down as Vice Chair of Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee but remain as a member of that Committee.
- Councillor Mrs Gill Williams to replace Cllr Billy Welsh on the Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee.
- To appoint a Vice Chair of Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee (Nominations Cllrs Ian Wilkes and Mrs Gill Williams).

Audit and Risk Committee:

- Councillor Mrs Sandra Hambleton to be appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Planning Committee

- Councillor Billy Welsh to replace Councillor Simon White on the Planning Committee.
- Councillor Mrs Sandra Simpson to be appointed to the Planning Committee.
- Councillor Bert Proctor to be appointed as Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.

Legal and Statutory Implications

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the 1989 Act”) imposes political proportionality requirements in respect of the appointment of committees (other than the Cabinet).

Specifically, section 15 of the Act requires that four principles be followed in allocating committee seats:-

- (a) All seats on a committee cannot be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) The majority of the seats on each committee should be allocated to the political group holding the majority of seats on the council;
- (c) Subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees of the council allocated to each political group should bear the same proportion to the proportion of their seats on the council;
- (d) Subject to (a), (b) and (c) above, the number of seats on each ordinary committee of the council allocated to each political group should bear the same proportion to the proportion of their seats on the council.

In order to fulfil these requirements in the order stated, and particularly to achieve the best fit of requirement (d) while maintaining requirement (c), it is usual for a small number of manual adjustments to be required to the allocations for individual committees.

The Councils Constitution states in Part 2, Section 4.4 (v) under Functions of the Full Council:

'Agreeing and/or amending the responsibilities of committees, deciding on their composition and making the initial appointment in each Council year to them in accordance with the statutory rules requiring political proportionality and compliance with the wishes of the political groups'

And at Appendix a 2(d);

'Agreeing and/or amending the terms of reference of committees, deciding on their composition and making appointments to them subject to the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. In the event of changes to political balance, the Chief Executive shall have the authority to amend the appointments to comply with the rules of political balance in accordance with the wishes of the group leaders'