

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

29 January 2020

Report Title: Changes to Committee Membership – **Urgent Addendum Report**

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: Corporate and Service Improvement, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To advise Members of changes the Leader has made to his Cabinet. Councillor Jill Waring replaces Councillor Mark Holland as Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture & Heritage. Cllr Helena Maxfield replaces Councillor Jill Waring as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Wellbeing.

To ask Council to appoint Councillor Mark Holland as a member/substitute member of the Council's Scrutiny Committees in place of Councillor Helena Maxfield.

To advise Council of the Conservative Group's nomination of Councillor Mark Holland as Chairman of the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee, and to seek to appoint a Councillor to that role.

Recommendation

That:-

1. Councillor Mark Holland be appointed to the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee in the place of Cllr Helena Maxfield.
2. Councillor Mark Holland be appointed to the Health, Wellbeing & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee in the place of Cllr Helena Maxfield.
3. Councillor Mark Holland be appointed as a substitute member of the Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee in the place of Cllr Helena Maxfield.
4. Council receive nominations for and appoint a Councillor to the role of Chairman of the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee.

Reasons

To ensure that vacancies arising on the Council's committees are appointed to on a politically proportionate basis.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Notice has been received from the Leader of the Conservative Party requesting that changes be made to the Councillor appointed to one of the Conservative held seats on each of the Council's three Scrutiny Committees. On account of the fact that the Councillor

vacating those seats is currently Chairman of the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee, there is also a need to elect a Councillor to Chair that committee.

- 1.2 The request comes following notification from the Leader that Councillor Jill Waring has assumed the Portfolio Holder responsibilities formerly held by Councillor Mark Holland, and that Councillor Helena Maxfield has assumed the Portfolio Holder responsibilities formerly held by Councillor Jill Waring. The Leader has also given notification that Councillor Mark Holland is now the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group. Councillor Stephen Sweeny remains as Deputy Leader of the Council.
- 1.3 Members are asked to note that this addendum report is brought before Council, with the Mayor's consent, under the provisions of Rule 8 (Urgency) of the Council Procedure Rules as set out in the Council's constitution.
- 1.4 The urgency arises because, in the Mayor's view, the need for the changes only arose after the agenda publication date of this Council meeting. The Mayor is of the view that because of the importance of the Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee to be held on 5 February, it is not in the interests of the efficient and proper conduct of that committee to await the next ordinary Council (19 February) before making that change. The Mayor is also of the view that if the changes in respect of the Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee are to be made at this meeting, business efficacy dictates that the other proposed changes also be made at this time.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 In accordance with Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated regulations, seats on the ordinary committees of the Council are to be allocated to the political groups in a manner proportionate to the number of overall seats on council held by each group.
- 2.2 Additionally, in accordance with the council's Constitution, Council is to make appointments to committee seats and elect Scrutiny Chairman.
- 2.3 Consequent upon notice received from the Conservative Group Leader, there is a need to appoint to one seat allocated to the Conservative Group on each of the Council's three Scrutiny Committees.
- 2.4 Additionally, because the Councillor stepping down from the seat on the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee also happens to be that Committee's Chairman, there is a need to re-elect a Chairman of that Committee. Members are asked to note that the Conservative Group's nomination to that role is Cllr Mark Holland.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 To:-

- 3.1.1 appoint Cllr Mark Holland to the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee in the place of Cllr Helena Maxfield
- 3.1.2 appoint Cllr Mark Holland to the Health, Wellbeing & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee in the place of Cllr Helena Maxfield
- 3.1.3 appoint Cllr Mark Holland as substitute member of the Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee in the place of Cllr Helena Maxfield
- 3.1.4 note the Conservative Party's nomination of Cllr Mark Holland as Chairman of the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee and to elect a councillor to that role.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To give effect to the wishes of the Conservative Group in terms of their allotted places on the committees referred to, and to comply with the requirements of the relevant legislation and the Council's Constitution in respect of appointments to committees and the election of Chairman.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 None.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 These are set out in the body of the report.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 There is no requirement for an EIA to be undertaken in connection with this decision. Nominations to committee seats are made by Group Leaders who will have regard to equality and diversity considerations when making their nominations.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 None.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 None.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 None.

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is not a Key Decision.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Not Applicable.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Not Applicable.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Not Applicable.