

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

19 February 2020

Report Title: Changes to Committee Membership
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 to committee membership following a change in political group membership.

Recommendation

That Council:-

- 1. Notes the change in the allocation of committee seats to the political groups to reflect updated proportionality requirements, namely the reduction of one Liberal Democrat seat on the Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee and the increase of one Conservative seat on the same committee.**
- 2. Appoint Councillor Ian Wilkes to the newly allocated Conservative seat on the Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships 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** 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. A need has arisen to revisit the allocation of committee seats to the political groups, and to make an appointment to a newly acquired committee seat.

2. Issues

- 2.1** Notice has been duly received advising the Proper Officer that Councillor Ian Wilkes is no longer a member of the Liberal Democrat group and that he has joined the Conservative group.
- 2.2** In accordance with Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated regulations, a calculation has been undertaken to reflect the change in group membership. That calculation has determined that there is a need to adjust the number of seats allocated to the Liberal Democrat group on the Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

down by one seat and the number of seats allocated to the Conservative group on the same committee up by one seat.

2.3 In accordance with the council's Constitution, Council is to make appointments to committee seats. In accordance with the relevant legislation, it must do so in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group. The Conservative group wishes to appoint Councillor Ian Wilkes to their newly allocated seat on the Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

2.4 Given that Councillor Wilkes was elected as the chairman of that committee by Council, and that he remains on that committee, there is no need for Council to elect a new chairman.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 That Councillor Ian Wilkes be appointed to the newly allocated Conservative seat on the Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

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 committee referred to, and to comply with the requirements of the relevant legislation and the Council's Constitution in respect of appointments to committees.

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.