

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S URGENT DECISION ON BEHALF OF

Council
14 July 2023

Report Title: Allocation of Committee Seats to Political Groups

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Purpose of the Report

To re-allocate committee seats to the political groups following a change in political proportionality of the Council.

Decision

To reflect the changed political proportionality of committee places membership following the resignation of Stephanie Talbot, using the urgency powers set out in the Constitution, that :-

1. The seats allocated to the Labour Party on the Audit and Standards Committee be reduced by one seat, with a corresponding increase in one seat on Audit and Standards Committee being allocated to the Conservative Group.
2. The Chief Executive agree with the Leaders of the Conservative and Labour Groups the members to be placed on Audit and Standards Committee and the Finance, Assets, and Performance Scrutiny Committee to reflect the changed membership of the Council and the changed political proportionality of committee places resulting from the recent resignation.

Reasons

To comply with the political proportionality requirements in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, following the resignation of the member elected to the Council for the Knutton ward.

1. **Background**

1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") imposes political proportionality requirements in respect of the allocation of seats on ordinary committees to the political groups.

1.2 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.

1.3 Following the resignation of the Councillor for the Knutton ward, there is a need to alter the seat allocations as set out above. The adjustment of committee seat allocations requires:

- Labour group reduce its seat allocation by 1
- Conservative Group increase its seat allocation by 1

2. **Issues**

2.1 This decision is taken in accordance with section B4, paragraph 9 (Urgent Business) of the Council's Constitution. The urgency arises on account of the need for this decision to be taken at a time before a meeting of full Council can be convened.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 That, using the urgency powers set out in the Constitution, the changes referred to above be made.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To comply with the political proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 To await the next meeting of full Council to propose the changes, however this would have the effect of the Audit and Standards Committee being run otherwise than in accordance with the requirements of the 1989 Act.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 Dealt with in the body of the report.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 N/A

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 N/A

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 Dealt with in the body of the report.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 None identified.

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

DECIDED BY:-

Martin Hamilton (Chief Executive) under the aforementioned powers



Signed

Dated 14 July 2023