

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

26 July 2023

Report Title: Changes to Committee Membership

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: All

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 urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive to amend the allocation of committee seats to the political groups to reflect updated proportionality requirements (Appendix 1)**
- 2. Note the appointment of Councillor Panter to the newly allocated Conservative seat on the Audit and Standards Committee**
- 3. Note the appointment of Councillor Grocott to the vacant Labour seat on Finance, Assets and 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 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 Stephanie Talbot has resigned her seat on the Council for the Knutton Ward.
- 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 Labour group on the Audit and Standards 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 order that the Audit and Standards Committee could proceed with membership in accordance with the revised proportionality, the Chief Executive took an urgent decision to amend committee seat allocations in line with the revised proportionality.

2.4 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 has advised the Chief Executive of its wish to appoint Cllr Barry Panter to the Audit and Standards Committee. The Labour group has advised the Chief Executive of its wish to appoint Cllr Dave Grocott to the vacant Labour seat on Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee. These nominations have been addressed by the Chief Executive and are presented to Council for noting.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 That Council:-

- **Notes the urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive to amend the allocation of committee seats to the political groups to reflect updated proportionality requirements (Appendix 1)**
- **Note the appointment of Councillor Panter to the newly allocated Conservative seat on the Audit and Standards Committee**
- **Note the appointment of Councillor Grocott to the vacant Labour seat on Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee.**

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To ensure that the proportion of seats on committees reflects the political proportionality of the Council.

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.