

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S
REPORT TO

Council
22 November 2023

Report Title: Appointment to Committees
Submitted by: Chief Executive
Portfolios: One Council, People and Partnerships
Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To appoint Members to committees following the changes in the membership of the Cabinet

Recommendation

That:

- (a) Council makes the changes to committee membership as set out in this report;**
(b) Council receives and approves nominations for any other changes to committee places, in line with the political proportionality of the Council.

Reasons

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, and to enable council business to be conducted through committees (Sections 101 & 102 of the Local Government Act 1972; Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003) and to comply with the requirements in respect of Scrutiny (Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000).

1. **Background**

- 1.1 In October 2023 the Leader made a change to his appointments to Cabinet. Cllr Jill Waring left the Cabinet, with Cllr Craig Skelding joining Cabinet and taking on the role of Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture & Heritage.
- 1.2 As a consequence of this change, Cllr Skelding as vacated his seat on Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee and also vacated his place as a substitute on the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee. These positions now need to be filled to ensure that the committees have a full membership, and that the membership reflects the political proportionality of the Council.
- 1.3 In order to maintain political proportionality both the place on the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee and the position of substitute on the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee need to be filled by a member of the Conservative Group.
- 1.4 The Conservative group have advised that the places will be filled as follows:
- **Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee:** Cllr Jill Waring;

- **Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee (substitute):** Cllr Jill Waring

1.5 In addition to the changed to the Conservative group membership, the Chief Executive has been advised by the Labour group of one change in Committee membership by that group:

- **Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee:** Cllr Grocott to come off this committee and be replaced by Cllr Rebekah Lewis; Cllr Grocott to become a substitute on this committee.

2. **Issues**

2.1 Set out above.

3. **Proposal**

That:

- (a) Council makes the changes to committee membership as set out in this report;

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To comply with the legislative requirements and Council's Constitution.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 Not applicable.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 Not applicable.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no significant direct financial or resource implications arising from the proposals. There is no change to the number of chairmanships or vice-chairmanships so no impact on members' allowances.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**

10.1 Not applicable.

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 Nominations.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Not Applicable.