

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S  
REPORT TO**

**Council**  
**22 November 2023**

**Report Title:** Appointment to Committees – Supplementary Report to Agenda Item 6

**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 political proportionality of the Council

**Recommendation**

**That:**

- (a) Council determines whether to allocate a committee seat to the newly independent councillor to the Licensing and Public Protection Committee OR the Planning Committee;**
- (b) The Labour Group's nomination to the vacant seat on Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee be received and agreed;**
- (c) That the Labour Group advise the Monitoring Officer by close of business on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November which member is being removed from the Committee determined by 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 Agenda Item 6 for the Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 addresses changes to committee membership arising from a change in Cabinet membership. The report recommendations provide for Council to receive and approve any other changes to committee places.

1.2 Subsequent to the publication of the Council agenda, Cllr Sue Beeston announced her resignation of the Labour whip, and as such now sits as an independent member. This has the effect of changing the political proportionality of the Council and requires an amendment to the membership of certain committees to reflect this.

1.3 The seats allocated to each political group on committees are allocated such as to provide that, as far as practically possible, the number of seats allocated to each group

across all committee places reflects the proportionality of each group on the council. The allocation also seeks to provide, as far as possible, that the allocation of seats on each committee also reflects the proportionality of each group on the Council.

## **Committee Place Changes**

1.4 The most recent change in proportionality means that the number of seats allocated to Labour reduces by 1 from 34 to 33; Conservative stays the same at 45 and the independent member is entitled to 1 committee seat. This requires the Labour group to vacate one committee place to make way for the independent member.

1.5 The committees which have the highest proportion of their allocation falling to the independent member are:

- Licensing & Public Protection - 0.34 seats
- Planning – 0.27 seats.

1.6 The Labour Group have indicated a preference to remove one Labour member from the Licensing and Public Protection Committee, to make way for the independent member.

1.7 The Conservative Group have indicated, following a conversation with the independent member, a preference for Labour to remove one member from the Planning Committee, to make way for the independent member.

1.8 Council will need to determine which of these committees sees a reduction in Labour membership in order to provide a seat to the independent member.

1.9 In addition to the reduction in Labour membership on one committee by one member, the Labour Group will be required to nominate a Labour member to sit on the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee in place of Cllr Beeston.

## 2. **Issues**

2.1 Set out above.

## 3. **Proposal**

That:

- (a) Council determines whether to allocate a committee seat to the newly independent councillor to the Licensing and Public Protection Committee OR the Planning Committee;**
- (b) The Labour Group's nomination to the vacant seat on Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee be received and agreed;**
- (c) That the Labour Group advise the Monitoring Officer by close of business on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November which member is being removed from the Committee determined by Council**

## 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 Dealt with in the body of the report for Agenda item 6

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 Not applicable.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no 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.

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

10.1 Not applicable.

10. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is not a Key Decision.

11. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Not Applicable.

12. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Nominations.

13. **Background Papers**

14.1 Not Applicable.