

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO

Council
12th February 2025

Report Title: Changes to Committee Membership

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Purpose of the Report

To note a change in political proportionality of the Council.

Recommendation:

That Council:

- 1. Notes that following a by-election in Town Ward, the political balance of the Council has changed following the election of Cllr. Casey-Hulme to Council on 23rd January 2025.**
- 2. Notes that as a result of this change, the seats allocated to the Conservative Party on the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee be decreased by one seat, with a corresponding increase of one seat for the Labour Party.**
- 3. Approves the nomination of a member of the Labour Party to the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee.**
- 4. Notes the change to Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee for the Labour Party.**

Reasons

Following a by-election on 23rd January 2025 in Town ward, this report seeks to comply with the political proportionality requirements in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, following a change in political balance.

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.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 On account of the result of a change in membership in the Labour Group, there one seat on the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee will move from the Conservative Group to the Labour Group.
- 2.2 The Labour Group will advise the Chief Executive of its nominee to the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee, replacing Cllr. Crisp.
- 2.3 Additionally, the Labour Group has indicated that it wishes to make changes to Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee, with Cllr. Casey-Hulme joining the committee to replace Cllr. Moss.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 That 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 In order to be compliant with the terms of Section B1, paragraph 5.2 (i) of the Council’s Constitution and the political proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act, no alternate options can be considered.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 There are no additional legal or statutory implications associated with this decision.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 There is no direct equality impact and therefore an assessment is not required.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 Not applicable

9. Major Risks

9.1 There is a risk of inadequate representation at meetings of a Scrutiny Committee and an outside body if these positions are not filled.

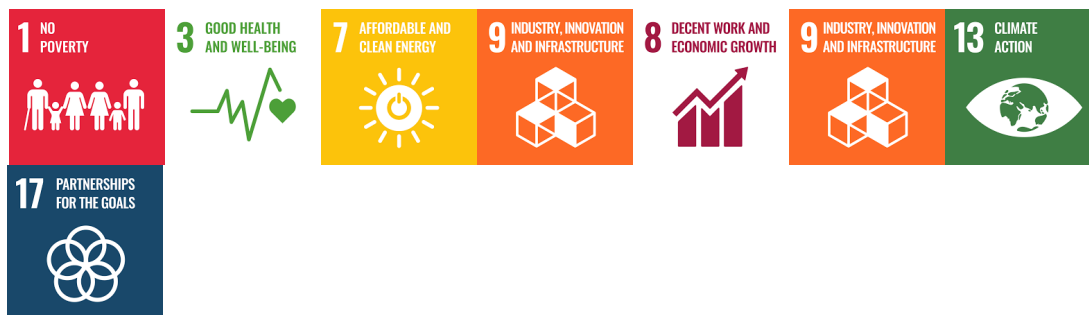
10. Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

10.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

11. Key Decision Information

11.1 This is not a Key Decision.

12. UN Sustainable Development Goals



13. One Council

Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

One Digital Council

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Green Council

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

13.1 This report seeks a change of seat for the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee which is responsible for scrutinising how the Council plans for and uses its finances (including income generation) and other assets including staffing and assets related to digital delivery, together with the Council's role in the local economy and shaping place through the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee.

14. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

14.1 Not Applicable.

15. **List of Appendices**

15.1 Not Applicable.

16. **Background Papers**

16.1 Not Applicable

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**