

## **NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**24<sup>TH</sup> September 2025**

**Report Title:** Change to Committee Proportionality

**Submitted by:** Chief Executive

**Portfolios:** One Council, People and Partnerships

**Ward(s) affected:** All

<b><u>Purpose of the Report</u></b>	<b><u>Key Decision</u></b>	<b>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>No <input type="checkbox"/></b>
To enact a change to the existing proportionality arrangements pursuant to The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (Regulation 11 Key Decisions) due to changed political membership/composition.			
<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>  <b>That Council:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notes the urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive to amend committee proportionality in line with the attached Appendix A to this report.</li> <li>Notes the changes to committee representation as requested by Group Leaders.</li> </ul>			
<b><u>Reasons</u></b>  It is a legal requirement under 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 [section 15(5)].  Under Part B1, para 5.2 (j) of the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive has authority to amend the proportionalities (to comply with the rules of political balance). The Chief Executive shall have the authority to amend appointments to committees in accordance with the wishes of Group Leaders.			

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1** Regulation 11 (special urgency) allows for a key decision to be made if it is impracticable for notice of the intention to take a key decision under Regulation 9 to be given 28 clear days in advance of the taking of the decision.
- 1.2** This provision also allows for a Key Decision to be taken where it is impractical for public notice at least five working days before the decision is taken to be given in accordance with Regulation 10.

- 1.3** Under the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Group Leaders and Mayor of the Council may make an urgent decision on such matters.

## **2. Issues**

- 2.1** The Monitoring Officer has been advised that the only Independent member on the council has given notice that she is joining the Conservative Group which impacts on the political proportionality of committees.
- 2.2** As a result of a by-election in May 2025 a member was elected for Reform UK which also needs to be taken into account in the new committee proportionality arrangements. Therefore, Cllr. Lynn Dean will be allocated a place on Planning Committee.
- 2.3** Amendments to committee appointments have also been requested by the Conservative Group. These include:
- 2.3.1** Cllr. Sue Beeston will retain a place on Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
  - 2.3.2** Cllr. Sue Beeston will replace Cllr. Amy Bryan on Planning Committee.
  - 2.3.3** Cllr. Amy Bryan will join Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee.
  - 2.3.4** Cllr. Sue Beeston will become a substitute member of the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee.
  - 2.3.5** Cllr. Sue Beeston will become a substitute member of the Licensing and Public Protection Sub-Committee.
- 2.4** The Labour Group also have the right to make changes to committee appointments, to be made to the Chief Executive in due course.

## **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1** It is noted that the Chief Executive has taken this urgent decision to amend the proportionality arrangements for committees as per the attached Appendix A.
- 3.2** Council is asked to:
- 3.2.1** Note the urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive to amend committee proportionality in line with the attached Appendix A to this report.
  - 3.2.2** Note the changes to committee representation as requested by Group Leaders.

## **4. Reasons**

- 4.1** It is a legal requirement under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Council Constitution that local authority committees are politically balanced and the allocation of places on committees reflects changes in political allegiance.
- 4.2** This decision is taken in accordance with provisions for Matters of Urgency within 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.

## 5. Options Considered

5.1 None, these are necessary changes to comply with legislation and the council constitution.

## 6. Legal and Statutory Implications

6.1 None other than contained herein.

## 7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 There are no direct impacts arising from this report.

## 8. Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 There are no direct impacts arising from this report.

## 9. Major Risks & Mitigation

9.1 There are no direct risks as a result of actions recommended within this report. The effective governance of the Council is a standing corporate risk.

## 10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



## 11. 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 Sustainable Council**

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

- 11.1 There are no direct implications arising from these changes. Committees oversee and scrutinise effective decision-making relating to Council policy for commercial, digital and sustainability activity.

**12. Key Decision Information**

- 12.1** Regulation 11 (special urgency) allows for a key decision to be made if it is impracticable for notice of the intention to take a key decision under Regulation 9 to be given 28 clear days in advance of the taking of the decision.
- 12.2** This provision also allows for a Key Decision to be taken where it is impractical for public notice at least five working days before the decision is taken to be given in accordance with Regulation 10.
- 12.3** Regulation 11 sets out the actions required to be taken in those circumstances which include gaining the consent of the Chairman of the relevant Select Committee or in their absence, of the Mayor. Details of Key Decisions taken under Regulation 11 must be presented to full Council in due course.

**13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

- 13.1** N/a

**14. List of Appendices**

- 14.1** Appendix A – new proportionality on committees 19.08.2025

**15. Background Papers**

- 15.1** N/a