

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>25 MAY 2023</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, POLITICAL BALANCE, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP</b>
<b>Executive Lead Member:</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

This report presents the political balance of the Council's Committees following the District Elections held on the 4 May 2023. This report also sets out proposed changes to the Council's Committees for consideration by Council.

## **Recommendation(s)**

Council is recommended to:

- a. Note the political balance of the Council's Committees following the District Elections held on the 4 May 2023.
- b. Approve the appointment of the Council's Committees as listed for the forthcoming year.
- c. Approve membership seats, including Chairs and Vice Chairs, for each of the Council's appointed Committees for the forthcoming year.

## **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is required to allocate seats on its Committees in a politically proportionate way.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

No other options are appropriate as the Council must comply with political proportionality as established in legislation.

## **Detailed Information**

### **CHANGES TO COMMITTEES**

#### **Scrutiny**

The following Committees will form the Council's scrutiny function, ensuring the function aligns more closely with the Cabinet structure:

- **Principal Select Committee** (*formerly Overview and Scrutiny Committee*)
- **Inward Focus Select Committee** (*formerly Scrutiny Panel A*)
- **Outward Focus Select Committee** (*formerly Scrutiny Panel B*)

#### **Local Plan Development**

The Local Plan Development Panel will now be known as the Local Plan Development Committee.

#### **Licensing**

Membership of the Licensing Committee has increased from 9 members to 10.

### **POLITICAL BALANCE**

The Council is required by law to ensure that it allocates places on its Committees in a politically proportionate way based on the number of Councillors elected for each Political group. Following the District Elections Table A sets out the number of seats for each political group elected to Council. Table B sets out the number of seats allocated to each group on the 10 committees.

As a result of the Licensing Committee increasing from 9 to 10 seats, there are now 77 such places available in total across all committees. Council is asked to make amendments to these allocations during the course of the year as required to reflect any changes to its overall political composition.

In order to restore as far as possible political proportionality on the Council (for practical purposes some element of 'rounding up' of the figures is required). Councillors that are not members of political groups have no entitlement to an allocation of seats on Committees. Political groups are entitled to their proportion of seats and once their entitlement has been reached, the remaining seats may be filled by Councillors not belonging to a political group. There are no non-aligned Members on the Council.

**Table A – Overall Allocation of Seats**

<b>Political Group</b>	<b>Seats on Council (35)</b>	<b>Allocation of 77 Places Subject to Political Proportionality</b>
<b>Ashfield Independents</b>	32	71
<b>Conservative</b>	2	4
<b>Labour</b>	1	2

**Table B – Allocation of Places on Committees**

	<b>Ashfield Independents</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>
Planning	9	0	0
Licensing	9	1	0
Standards and Personnel	6	1	0
Local Plan Development Committee	9	0	0
Principal Select Committee	6	1	0
Inward Focus Select Committee	6	0	1
Outward Focus Select Committee	7	0	0
Chief Officers Employment Committee	7	0	0
Charities	6	0	1
Audit	6	1	0
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

The table above demonstrates total number of seats available on each Committee for each group.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

There are no direct Corporate Plan implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

### **Legal:**

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is required to allocate seats on its Committees in a politically proportionate way. **[RLD 17/05/2023]**

### **Finance:**

There are no direct financial implications resulting from the recommendations within this report. **[PH 17/05/2023]**

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A

Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

## **Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Failure to comply with the requirements set out within the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in relating to allocating places to committees in a politically proportionate manner.	Committee membership to be allocated in accordance with the calculated political balance for the Council.

## **Human Resources:**

There are no direct HR implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

## **Environmental/Sustainability**

There are no direct environmental/sustainability implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

## **Equalities:**

There are no direct equalities implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

## **Other Implications:**

None.

## **Reason(s) for Urgency**

None.

## **Reason(s) for Exemption**

None.

## **Background Papers**

None.

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