

POLITICAL BALANCE

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non key

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed political balance of the Council's Committees following the creation of a new Political Group on the Council.
- 1.2 The Redditch Democratic Alliance consists of two Councillors; Councillor Michael Braley – Group Leader – and Councillor Paul Swansborough. The Council is required to review political balance arrangements as soon as practicable following receipt of a notice of a new Group.
- 1.3 Once the Council has agreed the political balance, the Leaders of each of the Political Groups on the Council nominate to the places on each Committee. Councillors who are not members of a political group are appointed to Committees by the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is requested to RESOLVE that

- 1) the Political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out in paragraph 3.4;**
- 2) that if the political balance is agreed, the appointment by the Redditch Democratic Alliance to the place on the Planning Committee be noted.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The level of members allowances, based on the current number of positions as set out in this report, has been agreed previously by the Council.

Legal Implications

3.2 With the exception of the Executive Committee, the Council is required by law to allocate places on its main Committees in accordance with its political make-up. The main requirements are that:

- the number of seats on each Committee allocated to each political group reflects the proportion it holds of the total number of seats on the Council;
- the Group with the majority of seats on the Council should hold the majority of seats on each Committee.

3.3 The definition of a Political Group for these purposes is that it has a minimum of 2 members. Following the creation of the new Group, the composition of the Council is 18 Labour, 9 Conservative, and 2 Redditch Democratic Alliance.

3.4 The table below shows the proposed allocation between committees based on the revised political balance. The only change proposed is to the Licensing and Audit, Governance and Standards Committees, where the places previously allocated to a non-aligned Councillor are allocated to the Redditch Democratic Alliance. Similarly, no change in the composition of the Overview and Scrutiny is proposed, but the place previously allocated by the Council to a non-aligned member is taken by the Redditch Independent Alliance:

Committee	Total places	Labour Group Places – entitled to 18	Conservative Group Places – entitled to 9	Redditch Democratic Alliance Places – entitled to 2
Audit, Governance & Standards	9	5 (5.59)	3 (2.79)	1 (0.62)
Licensing	11	7 (6.83)	3 (3.41)	1 (0.75)
Planning	9	6 (5.59)	3 (2.79)	0 (0.62)
	29	18	9	2
Committees below are <u>not</u> proposed to be politically balanced – Council convention is that majority group does not take majority of seats				
Overview and Scrutiny	9	4 (5.27)	4 (2.79)	1 (0.62)
Crime and Disorder Panel	5	2 (2.93)	3 (1.55)	0

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.5 Once the Council agrees the allocation of seats to Committees, the leaders of each political group nominate members to fill them so that the business of the Council can continue to run smoothly.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.6 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no specific high level risks arising from this report.

5. APPENDICES

None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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