



<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	<b>Council Forum</b>
<b>ON:</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>

## **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS 2023/24 - Update**

### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the composition, the political balance of the Council and the allocation of Committee seats following a change in membership to one of the Council's Political Groups.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Council Appointments for 2023/24 were initially approved at Annual Council on 18 May 2023. There have been subsequent updates to Council since then as a consequence of changes in the composition of the Council's Political Groupings.
- 2.2 Since the last report on this matter to Policy Council in November 2023, Cllr Mohammed Irfan has resigned from the 4BWD Independent Group' and will sit as an Independent Councillor. The change in the Political Groups of the Council is summarised in the table below:-

	<b>November 2023</b>	<b>January 2024</b>	<b>Change</b>
Labour	30	30	-
Conservative	11	11	-
4BWD Independent Group	8	7	-1
Independent Councillors	2	3	+1
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-</b>

- 2.3 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act") imposes a duty on the Council to allocate seats on committees to political groups in accordance with the size of each group as a whole, unless alternative arrangements are notified to all Members and agreed without any councillor voting against them. The Council is required to observe the following principles as far as it is reasonably practicable:

- a) that not all seats on the Body are allocated to the same group;
- b) that the majority of seats on the Body are allocated to a particular Political Group if the number of persons belonging to that Group is a majority of the authority's membership;

- c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary Committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of that authority as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
  - d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of Members of that Group to the membership of the authority.
- 2.4 In light of the change to the political composition and the review of proportionality, the Labour Group gain one additional seat and the 4BWD Independent Group have one less seat. This change is applied to the Standards Committee. The updated proportionality and allocation of seats on Council Committees to Political Groups is provided **Appendix 1**.

### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Council notes the current composition, political balance and the updated allocation of seats on the Council as referred to in **Appendix 1**;

**Denise Park**  
**Chief Executive**  
**17<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Background Papers:           The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Council Constitution (all published)

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