

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Head of Democratic Services
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	17 th September 2014

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider a review of the political balance calculations following the election of Councillor Luke Taylor at the recent by election for Clifton ward and also following the sad death of Councillor Tony Lee.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To re-appoint the following Committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix 9(a). These are:
- Scrutiny Committee (membership of fourteen and with a composition of ten Labour and four Conservative)
 - Health Scrutiny Committee (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative)
 - Planning Committee (membership of ten and with a composition of seven Labour and three Conservative)
 - Appeals Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative)
 - Finance and Audit Committee (membership of seven and with a composition of five Labour and two Conservative).
 - Standards Committee (membership of six and with a composition of four Labour and two Conservative).
 - Chief Officers Employment Committee (membership of five and with a composition of four Labour and one Conservative).
- 2.2 Subject to the appointment of the Committees as set out in 2.1 above, to agree that the powers and duties of those Committees remain as set out in the Constitution.
- 2.3 Subject to (2.1) above, that the Scrutiny Committee be requested to appoint a 'Call In' Sub Committee, (membership of nine and with a composition of six Labour and three Conservative), to meet as and when required, with the powers and duties, as

set out in the Constitution.

- 2.4 To note that the Licensing Committee and the Public Protection Sub Committee do not need to be re-appointed as the political balance calculations do not change.
- 2.5 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to note the appointment of members to Committees as set out in Appendix 9(b).
- 2.6 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to confirm the re-appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for those Committees and the six Scrutiny Lead Members identified at Appendix 9(b) based on the above recommendations.
- 2.7 Subject to the approval of the above recommendations, to agree that the Director of Governance and Regulatory Services be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly and report back to Council on revised political balance calculations at the November meeting following the Waterloo By Election.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To reflect the current political balance of the political groups on the Council. This will also meet statutory requirements.
- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes
- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
- There are no other options as the Council has to abide by the political balance calculations unless it comes to a decision to applying different calculations, however in this instance then no member must vote against it.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The appointment of Council Committees will help the Council deliver all its priorities.

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 At the Annual Meeting on 12th May 2014, it was agreed that a further report be submitted to the June Council meeting to review the political balance calculations and their effect on Committees following the election of three councillors at the by elections on 22nd May 2014. At the June Council meeting it was also agreed to review

the political balance calculations following the Clifton by election.

- 5.2 The Clifton by election was held on 24 July and Councillor Luke Taylor (Labour) was elected. However, sadly on 20 July Councillor Tony Lee passed away creating a vacancy on the Council, which also has an effect on the political balance calculations. The calculations are set out at Appendix 9(a) to reflect these two changes. Council has the option to request a further review at the November meeting following the Waterloo ward by election which has just been called.
- 5.3 The Licensing Committee is not subject to political balance rules, but the Council has sought to apply proportionality, with the addition of the Liberal Democrat member. This calculation has been done and no changes are required so Council does not need to re-appoint it, nor re-appoint the Public Protection Sub Committee.
- 5.4 With regards to the scrutiny process, then at the Annual Council meeting the Council agreed to the appointment of six 'lead' members on a political balance basis (reversed) to four Conservative and two Labour. The revised calculations would not change these appointments.
- 5.5 The Scrutiny Committee will continue with a membership of 14, however, this is made up of 10 Labour and four Conservative members. This in effect reduces the Conservative membership on here by one, due to the vacancy on the Council. Accordingly, this committee will need to re-appoint a Sub Committee to deal with the 'call in' of Executive decisions function. This is also subject to the political balance rules and therefore has to be included in the aggregated proportionality calculations.
- 5.6 In order to achieve true political balance, following consultation with the Group Leaders the Labour Group will continue to forgo a member on the Chief Officers Employment Committee and the Conservative Group will now also forgo a member on that same Committee.
- 5.7 **Appointment of Chairmen** - with changes to the sizes and composition of committees, the appointment of chairmen and vice chairmen also needs to be reconfirmed. Appendix 9(b) lists the notified names of committee members and proposed Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship positions. (The appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for the Call In Sub-Committee is a matter for its Parent Committee to deal with).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 9(a) sets out the political balance calculations

Appendix 9(b) sets out the proposed members to be appointed to

Committees.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review periodically the political composition of the Authority, and how this is applied to appointments to Council bodies. The rules for securing political balance on Committees and Sub-Committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990. See <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1990/1553/regulation/17/made>

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 There are no Human Resources considerations.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 There are no equalities considerations.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 There are no additional financial considerations.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Failure to take account of the political balance changes will mean that the Council is not following the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has previously been undertaken with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group regarding their representatives to serve on the recommended Committees.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.