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| Report to: | COUNCIL |
| Relevant Officer: | Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services |
| Relevant Cabinet Member: | Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council |
| Date of Meeting: | 26 th November 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 Derek Robertson at the recent by election for Waterloo ward.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To re-appoint the following Committees, in line with the political balance calculations and adjustments at Appendix 5(a). These are:

- Scrutiny Committee (membership of fifteen and with a composition of ten Labour and five 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 six and with a composition of four Labour and two 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 5(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 5(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.

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 The Appointment of Committees and political balance calculations normally take place at the Annual Meeting and did so this year on 12th May 2014. However, due to 3 by elections on 22nd May 2014 (Talbot, Layton and Hawes Side) and one on 24th July (Clifton ward) reviews of the political balance calculations have taken place at both the June and September Councils. At the September Council due to the by election called for 9th October (Waterloo ward), it was agreed that a further report be submitted to this Council meeting following on from the election of a councillor for that ward.

- 5.2 Councillor Derek Robertson (Conservative) was elected and the Council now has all of its 42 seats filled. This report sets out the political balance calculations now required and the calculations are set out at Appendix 5(a).
- 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 now increase to a membership of 15 (from 14), made up of 10 Labour and five Conservative members. 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, the Labour Group will continue to forgo a member on the Chief Officers Employment Committee and the Conservative Group will add another member to that Committee (increasing its membership from one to two).
- 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 5(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 5(a) sets out the political balance calculations

Appendix 5(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.