

North East Derbyshire District Council

Council

16 November 2020

Appointments to Committees and Advisory Groups

Report of the Monitoring Officer and Solicitor to the Council

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To make amendments to the appointment of Members to the Council's Committees and Advisory Groups for the 2020/21 Municipal Year following a change to the Council's political groups affecting proportionality.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 There has been a change in the numbers within a political group of the Authority, with Clive Hunt vacating his seat of office through Section 85 of the Local Government Act. This affects the overall proportionality of allocation of committee seats, and accordingly this should be revised at the earliest opportunity.
- 1.2 This report therefore brings forward the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules.
- 1.3 **Appendix 1** to the report sets out the allocation of committee seats which best meets the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 1.4 **Appendix 2** amends the current appointments to committees following the changes to allocations as identified in Appendix 1. Political Groups are able to make changes where necessary to their appointments to Committees, and nominations to and removals from committees are requested in some instances.
- 1.5 Members should discuss any changes to Committee and Advisory Group Appointments with the Leaders of their Political Groups in advance of the Council meeting.
- 1.6 The Committees are subject to the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Advisory Groups are not subject to the political balance requirements.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The report recommends that the allocation of Committee seats detailed best meets the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act as far as reasonable practicable.

2.2 Existing appointments to Committees are detailed in Appendix 2 requesting amendments from political groups.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 Group Leaders, Statutory officers, the Leader and the Governance Team have been consulted on the political balance.

3.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been necessary.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 The Council may make amendments to the nominations to committees within the proportionality agreed before and up to the discussion of this matter at the meeting. Any further revisions will be brought before a meeting of Council.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

5.1.1 None

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

5.2.1 The Council is required to decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules.

5.2.2 The Local Government Act 72 expressly provides that where a council member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance at any meeting of the authority, then they cease to be a member of that Authority, unless the failure was due to some reason approved prior to the expiry of that period.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 None.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That the Council agrees the allocation of seats of Committees as detailed in Appendix 1 is in accordance with the political balance rules;

6.2 That the appointment to committees as set out in Appendix 2 be agreed; and

6.3 That it be noted that a vacancy has automatically arisen on the Authority and the notice of Vacancy will be made, with elections held at the earliest May 2021.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p><i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/></i> <i>Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/></i></p> <p><i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/></i> <i>Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/></i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</p>	N/A
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	None directly
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	Demonstrating good governance

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Proportionality on Committees
2	Appointments to Committees
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
None	
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