



COUNCIL: 23 February 2022

Report of: Chief Operating Officer

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran

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SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2021/22

Borough wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider the allocation of seats on Committees to the political groups for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2021/22.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That, for the period ending with the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or such lesser period should the political balance or allocation to political groups change during the year requiring a review under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the allocation of seats to the political groups on Committees be as detailed in the attached Appendix be as indicated.

2.2 That the representatives of the political groups on the Committees shall be as indicated on the attached Appendix.

3.0 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES etc

3.1 At its Annual Meeting, the Council is under an obligation, under Section 15(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to review the representation of the Political Groups on Committees and Sub-Committees. Under the Act, the numbers of seats on ordinary Committees have to be aggregated and allocated to the proportion that each political group bears to the total members of the Council, in so far as reasonably practicable. In view of the recent changes to the political balance ie. a reduction in the number of members in the Labour Group, a vacancy and 2 additional Independent Members, a request has been received to review the political group representation on Committees. The current elected membership of the Council is 53 (with one vacancy). The Labour Group has 23 members –43.4% of the total membership, the Conservative Group has 20 members – 37.74% of the

total membership, 'Our West Lancashire' has 7 members 13.21 (%) of the total membership and 3 Independent members (1.89% each) of the total membership, which do not constitute a Political Group.

- 3.2 Of the seats available in Committees, these will be allocated to the Labour Group, the Conservative Group and Our West Lancashire, in line with the above. The allocation of remaining seats not allocated to any Political Group will fall to be made by the Council in its discretion. The regulations provide that the Council must only appoint from Members who belong to no Political Group. The remaining seats must therefore be allocated to the 3 Independent Members who do not belong to a Political Group.
- 3.3 There is no legal requirement under the 1989 Act to aggregate the number of seats on ordinary sub-committees. The Act simply requires the seats on such sub-committees to be allocated to the political groups in the same proportion as each group bears to the whole Council. Political balance rules do not apply to Working Groups or Commissions.
- 3.4 The revised entitlement to seats under the Council's Political Management Structure is set out in the attached Appendix 1.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this report.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 Reviewing the political balance on committees ensures that the Council is complying with its obligation, under Section 15(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

7.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

Allocation of seats to the political groups on Committees (To follow)