

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

Appointments and Changes to Membership

Summary

1. This report seeks approval to vary the proportionality on Planning Committee and Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee, whilst maintaining the overall proportionality and political balance of the Council. It also seeks approval for the appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies on the list attached as Annex 1.

Background

2. Following the Heworth Without by election, the overall political balance on the Council changed as follows:

Political Group	Proportionality before the by election	Proportionality before the by election
<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>40.4%</i>	<i>42.6%</i>
<i>Labour</i>	<i>38.3%</i>	<i>38.3%</i>
<i>Conservative</i>	<i>17.0%</i>	<i>14.9%</i>
<i>Green</i>	<i>4.3%</i>	<i>4.3%</i>

3. This change represents a transfer of three committee seats to the Liberal Democrats from the Conservatives.
4. Following negotiations between the two groups, it is proposed that one seat will be transferred from the Conservatives to the Liberal Democrats on each of the Strategic Policy Panel, the Local Development Framework Working Group and the Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee.
5. Whilst maintaining the overall proportionality and political balance of the Council, this arrangement would not maintain individual proportionality on the Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee or the Planning Committee, where the distribution of seats would be as follows:

Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee

Political Groups	Number of Seats
<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Labour</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Conservative</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Green</i>	<i>2</i>

Planning Committee

Political Groups	Number of Seats
<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Labour</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Conservative</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Green</i>	<i>1</i>

6. Council's approval is therefore sought to vary the proportionality on these two committees.

Consultation

7. The Leaders of the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Groups have indicated that these arrangements are acceptable to them.

Options

8. Members have the option to either approve or reject the request to vary the proportionality on Planning Committee and Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee, whilst maintaining the overall proportionality and political balance of the Council.

Analysis

9. Approval of the request would allow the changes agreed between the Groups to be implemented.

Corporate Priorities

10. This issue does not contribute to or impact on any of the corporate priorities.

Implications

11. There are no implications in any of the following areas:

- **Financial**
- **Human Resources (HR)**
- **Equalities**
- **Legal**
- **Crime and Disorder**
- **Information Technology (IT)**
- **Property**
- **Other**

Risk Management

12. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

13. (i) That approval be given to vary the proportionality on Planning Committee and Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee, whilst maintaining the overall proportionality and political balance of the Council.

Reason: To implement the changes agreed by the Groups.

(ii) That the other appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies on the list attached as Annex 1 of the report be approved.

Reason: In line with constitutional requirements.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 21/9/07**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** *None***Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all***All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None**Annexes**

Annex 1 - list of appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies.