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| **REPORT TO** | **ON** | |
| **Council** | **22 November 2017** | |
| September 2017 | | |
| **TITLE** | | **REPORT OF** | |
| **Changes to Membership and Chairmanship of Committees and Chairmanship of Central Neighbourhood Forum 2017/18** | | **Interim Corporate Governance Manager** | |

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| Is this report confidential? | **No** |

1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

(1) To advise the Council that Councillors Claire Hamilton and Paul Wharton have given notice that they have formed a new political group entitled the South Ribble Independents Group with effect from 15 October 2017, which has changed the Political Balance on the Council and to inform the Council that the change in proportionality affects the entitlement to formal Committee Places;

(2) To advise Council that Councillor David Bird has resigned from the membership and chairmanship of the Standards Committee; and

(3) To seek approval to the proposed changes to the membership of Committees; the chairmanship and vice chairmanship of the Standards Committees and the chairmanship and vice chairmanship of the Central Neighbourhood Forum for the remainder of the Council Year 2017/18.

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the revised membership of the various Committees; the chairmanship and vice chairmanship of the Standards Committee and the chairmanship and vice chairmanship of the Central Neighbourhood Forum be approved for the remainder of the Council Year 2017/18 in accordance with Appendix A of this report.

**3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

The report relates to the following corporate priorities

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Clean, Green and Safe | x | Strong and Healthy Communities | x |
| Strong South Ribble in the heart of prosperous Lancashire | x | Efficient, Effective and Exceptional Council | x |

**4. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

Following changes in political group memberships and a resignation from the Standards Committee, this report deals with amendments to the membership of the Council’s Appeals, Standards, General Licensing and the Licensing Act 2003 Committees. **Appendix A** of this reportshows the nominations received from the relevant political groups to these Committees for the remainder of the Council Year 2017/18.

**5. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS**

5.1 Councillors Claire Hamilton and Paul Wharton have given notice that they have established a new political group entitled the South Ribble Independents Group with effect from 15 October 2017. This has changed the political balance on the Council and a recalculation of the entitlement to formal Committee Places has been undertaken which results in the South Ribble Independents Group been entitled to three Committee Places.

5.2 This results in the Conservative Group losing two Committee Places in total; one on the Appeals Committee, one on the General Licensing Committee and one on the Licensing Act 2003 Committee whilst gaining a seat on the Standards Committee; and the Labour Group losing one place on the Standards Committee. It is therefore necessary to amend the membership of Committees for the remainder of the Council Year 2017/18.

5.3 The change in proportionality is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political Group | Number of Seats on Council | Entitlement to Committee Places | |
| **From** 15 October 2017 | **Prior** to 15 October 2017 |
| Conservative | 27 | 43 **(-2)** | 45 |
| Labour | 18 | 28 **(-1)** | 29 |
| Liberal Democrat | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| South Ribble Independents | 2 | 3 **(+3)** | n/a |
|  | 50 | 79 | 79 |

5.4 The revised allocation of places is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Committee | Places Available | Places Allocated to Political Groups | | | |
| Conservative | Labour | Liberal Democrat | South Ribble Independents |
| Scrutiny | 12 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Planning | 15 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| General Licensing | 11 | 5 **(-1)** | 4 | 1 | **+1** |
| Licensing Act 2003 | 11 | 5 **(-1)** | 4 | 1 | **+1** |
| Appeals | 6 | 3 **(-1)** | 2 | 0 | **+1** |
| Governance | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Standards | 7 | 5 **(+1)** | 2 **(-1)** | 0 | 0 |
| Recruitment Panel | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Shared Services | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 79 | 43 (-2) | 28 (-1) | 5 | 3 (+3) |

5.5 In connection with 5.1 above, as Councillor Paul Wharton is no longer a member of the Conservative Group, there is a need for that Group to nominate a new Member for the General Licensing Committee and the Licensing Act 2003 Committee, and a new Chair of the Central Neighbourhood Forum for the remainder of the Council Year 2017/18. The Council’s Constitution provides that, the nomination of the Chair is from the majority group from amongst the ward members on the Neighbourhood Forum, which in this case, is the Conservative Group.

5.6 Following Councillor David Bird stepping down as a member of the Standards Committee there is a need for the Conservative Group to appoint a new Member to that Committee and a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

**6. WIDER IMPLICATIONS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION**

6.1 **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

6.2 **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

The Chief Executive received formal notice of the establishment of the South Ribble Independents Group in accordance with Paragraph 9 (b) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The allocation of Committee Places has been revised following the change in proportionality on the Council to meet the requirements of Paragraph 15 (d) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

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| **Other implications:**   * **Risk** * **Equality & Diversity** * **HR & Organisational Development** * **Property & Asset Management** * **ICT / Technology** | Failure to have in place a robust and effective decision making structure could leave the Council’s decisions open to challenge. This risk is addressed by the proposals within the report.  There are no equality implications arising from this report.  There are no HR & Organisational Development implications arising from this report.  There are no Property & Asset Managementimplications arising from this report.  There are no ICT / Technology implications arising from this report. |

**7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

There are no background papers to this report.

Caroline Elwood

Interim Corporate Governance Manager

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| Report Author: | Telephone: | Date: |
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**APPENDIX A**

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

**APPEALS COMMITTEE**

Councillor Paul Wharton (South Ribble Independents) to replace Councillor Barrie Yates (Conservative) as a Member of the Committee

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Councillor Yates (Conservative) to replace Councillor Michael Higgins (Labour) as a Member of the Committee

Councillor John Rainsbury (Conservative) to replace Councillor David Bird (Conservative) as a Member of the Committee

Councillor Linda Woollard (Conservative) to replace Councillor David Bird (Conservative) as the Chair of the Committee and Councillor Carol Chisholm to replace Councillor Linda Woollard as the Vice Chair of the Committee

**GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Claire Hamilton (South Ribble Independents)

**LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE**

Councillor Claire Hamilton (South Ribble Independents)

**CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

Councillor Karen Walton (Conservative) to replace Councillor Paul Wharton (South Ribble Independents) as the Chair of the Forum. Councillor Renee Blow (Liberal Democrat) to replace Councillor Karen Walton as the Vice-chair.