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| **REPORT TO** | **ON** |
| **Council** | **21 March 2018** |
|  |
| **TITLE** | **REPORT OF** |
| **Change to Committee Membership 2017/18** | **Scrutiny and Performance Manager** |

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

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To advise the Council that Councillor David Bird has resigned from the Conservative Group and wishes to be known as a Penwortham Independent with effect from 19 February 2018. This has changed the Political Balance on the Council and the change in proportionality has affected the entitlement to formal Committee Places.

This report informs Council of the outcome of the recalculation of Committee Places and the changes necessary to ensure political proportionality is achieved. The Council is requested to approve the changes to the membership of the Standards Committee and Governance Committee.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

(1) That the Council note the change in proportionality results in an increase in the Labour Group entitlement of one Committee Place and a corresponding decrease in the Conservative Group entitlement;

(2) That the political groups below report orally on the changes to the Committees indicated:

* The Labour Group to gain one member on the Standards Committee for the remainder of the Council Year 2017/18;
* The Conservative Group to lose member on the Standards Committee for the remainder of the Council Year 2017/18; and
* The Conservative Group to appoint a member on the Governance Committee in place of Councillor David Bird (Penwortham Independent) for the remainder of the Council Year 2017/18.

**3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

The report relates to the following corporate priorities

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

**4. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS**

4.1 Councillor David Bird has given notice that he has resigned from the Conservative Group and wishes to be known as a Penwortham Independent with effect from 19 February 2018.

4.2 The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 state that a political group may not be less than 2 members and individual Councillors who are not members of a political group are not entitled to any Committee places. This applies to Councillor Bird who will no longer be entitled to any Committee places on the Council.

4.3 The reduction of one member on the Conservative Group has changed the political balance on the Council and a recalculation of the entitlement to formal Committee Places has been undertaken. This has resulted in the Conservative Group losing one Committee Place on the Standards Committee and the Labour Group gaining one place on the Standards Committee. It is therefore necessary to amend the membership of the Standards Committee for the remainder of the Council Year 2017/18.

4.4 The Conservative Group is still entitled to four places on the Governance Committee and they will need to appoint a Member to fill the place on that Committee previously occupied by Councillor Bird.

4.5 The change in proportionality is as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Political Group  | Number of Seats on Council  | Entitlement to Committee Places |
| **From** 19 February2018 | **Prior** to 19 February 2018 |
| Conservative | 26 **(-1)** | **42 (-1)** | 43 |
| Labour  | 18 | **29 (+1)** | 28 |
| Liberal Democrat  | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| South Ribble Independents | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Penwortham Independent  | 1 **(+1)** | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 50 | 79 | 79 |

4.6 The revised allocation of places is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Committee  | Places Available | Places Allocated to Political Groups |
| Conservative | Labour | Liberal Democrat | South Ribble Independents | Penwortham Independent |
| Scrutiny | 12 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Planning | 15 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| General Licensing | 11 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Licensing Act 2003 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Appeals | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Governance | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Standards** | 7 | **4 (-1)** | **3 (+1)** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Appointments Panel | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Shared Services | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total  | 79 | **42** **(-1)**  |  **29 (+1)**  | 5 |  3  | **0** |

**5. WIDER IMPLICATIONS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION**

5.1 **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

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

5.2 **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

The Chief Executive received formal notice of the change in political group membership 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. |

**6.** There are no background papers to this report.

Darren Cranshaw

Scrutiny and Performance Manager

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| Report Author: | Telephone: | Date: |
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