

COUNTY COUNCIL – 15 MAY 2012

COMMITTEES AND REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

Report by the County Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

1. The Council is required annually to appoint "at least one scrutiny committee, and such other committees as the Council considers appropriate", to review the political balance on committees and to appoint members to the committees. At the Council meeting on 20 March 2012 it was agreed that the Audit Committee be renamed as the Audit & Governance Committee and its terms of reference expanded to include overview of member standards. Additionally Council approved the creation of the Remuneration Committee. A schedule is attached (Annex 1) showing the present committees amended to reflect these changes. Terms of reference are attached (Annex 1(a) and 1(b)) for the Audit & Governance Committee and Remuneration Committee. The Monitoring Officer will make consequential changes to the Constitution
2. The Constitution requires the appointment of committees to take place at the annual meeting and the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires a review of the political balance on committees on an annual basis. A note is attached (Annex 2) which summarises how the rules operate.
3. A schedule is attached (Annex 3) showing the initial arithmetical product of the rules for the Council's committees. The figures in brackets show the adjustments which are necessary to achieve the balance across and within committees to comply with the rules.
4. In summary the changes necessary are:
 - (a) To obtain balance across the scrutiny committees, the Liberal Democrat, Labour, and Green Groups have 2, 1 and 1 additional seats respectively. There is a remaining unfilled seat; and
 - (b) To obtain balance across the other committees of the Council and overall the Labour Group must lose one place (making two 'unfilled' seats) and the Green Group have 2 additional seats. The two 'unfilled' seats must therefore be offered to the Green Group, together with the remaining unfilled seat from the scrutiny committees

The seat that then remains unfilled must be offered to the independent member.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. **The Council is RECOMMENDED to:**

- (a) confirm the political balance on committees shown in Annex 3 to the report;**
- (b) approve the amended and new terms of reference as set out in annex 1a and 1b and appoint to committees the councillors and co-opted members shown in Annex 1, subject to any changes reported at the meeting.**

PETER CLARK
County Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

Background Papers: Nil

Contact Officers: Sue Whitehead, Committee Services Manager Tel: 01865
810262

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