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| Report subject | Review of the Political Balance of the Council and the allocation of seats on Committees |
| Meeting date | 15 September 2020 |
| Status | Public Report |
| Executive summary | The Council is asked to consider and approve the review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group and the appointment of Councillors to Committees. |
| Recommendations | <p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Table 1 of this report, be approved; (b) the allocation of seats to each political group, as set out in Table 2 of this report, be approved, subject to any changes; (c) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards taking into account the membership, as detailed in Table 3 and any nominations submitted by political groups, be approved. |
| Reason for recommendations | To ensure compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations in reviewing and approving the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats together with any other associated issues. |

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| Portfolio Holder(s): | Councillor Vikki Slade, Leader of the Council |
| Corporate Director | Graham Farrant, Chief Executive |
| Report Authors | Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services Karen Tompkins, Deputy Head of Democratic Services |
| Wards | Council-wide |
| Classification | For Decision |

Background

1. A review of the political balance of the Council is required following the death of Councillor Pete Parrish. Set out below are the revised membership calculations based on 74 seats.

Table 1

| | No of Seats | % of total seats | Seat entitlement* |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Conservative | 36 | 48.65 | 47.19 |
| Liberal Democrats | 14 | 18.92 | 18.35 |
| Christchurch Independents | 6 | 8.11 | 7.86 |
| Poole People and ALL | 6 | 8.11 | 7.86 |
| Bournemouth Independent & Greens | 4 | 5.41 | 5.24 |
| Labour | 3 | 4.05 | 3.93 |
| Non-aligned | 5 | 6.76 | 6.55 |
| Total | 74 | 100.00 | 97.00 |
| Vacant | 2 | | |
| Total | 76 | | |

* Please note the increase in the seat entitlement relates to the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee which is referenced in paragraph 4 below.

2. Set out below is the proposed allocation of seats to the Political Groups. The following principles are contained within Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, they have been amended under the regulations to take account of the fact that not all the seats are held by members of political groups, they need to be applied in order:
 - (a) Not all the seats on a committee are allocated to the same political group.
 - (b) Where a group has a majority of seats on the Authority it should have the majority of seats on each committee.

- (c) The third rule provides that, without being inconsistent with the first two rules, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all the ordinary committees taken together be as near as reasonably practicable proportionate to their proportion of seats as a proportion of the authority as a whole.
- (d) Finally, so far as is consistent with the above each group should be allocated seats on each committee to reflect their proportion of seats on the authority.

Table 2

| | Planning Committee | Licensing Committee | Standards Committee | Appeals Committee | Audit & Governance Committee | Overview and Scrutiny Board | Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee | Children's Services O&S Committee | Investigation and Disciplinary Committee | Total | Variance (+/-) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|-------|----------------|
| Conservative | 8 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 47 | + 0 |
| Liberal Democrats | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 18 | + 0 |
| Christchurch Independents | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | + 0 |
| Poole People and ALL | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | + 0 |
| Bournemouth Independent & Greens | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | + 0 |
| Labour | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | + 0 |
| Non-aligned | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | + 0 |
| Total | 15 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 97 | |

- In accordance with the revised political balance of the Council Members are asked to consider the proposed allocation of seats as detailed above. The last column in the above table identifies the variances in the allocation of seats compared to calculations set out in Table 1.
- The Council at its meeting on 9 June 2020 agreed that an Investigation and Disciplinary Committee be established as a Committee of the Council in accordance with the recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee. The Committee consisting of seven councillors must include the Leader of the Council and another member of the Cabinet. The calculations now include the membership of this Committee.
- The following table sets out the membership of Committees and Boards, in accordance with the previous wishes of the Political Groups and decisions of Council. The Political Groups may at any time alter the Group's membership of Committees and Boards but any seats allocated to the unaligned Members must be

approved by the Council. Members are asked to consider the following and any revised nominations submitted by the political groups. Please note that the table also identifies the proposed membership for the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee.

Table 3

| | Planning Committee | Licensing Committee | Standards Committee | Appeals Committee | Audit & Governance Committee | Overview and Scrutiny Board | Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee | Children's Services O&S Committee | Investigation and Disciplinary Committee |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| Conservative | Davies Decent Hall Kelsey Lawton O'Neill Stribley Vacancy | S Anderson J Butt Decent Dion Dove Dunlop Farr Kelsey | Borthwick Jones Stribley | S Anderson Filer Hedges | Beesley Williams Dunlop White | Broadhead Haines M Anderson Fear M Greene N Greene Iyengar Mellor | Allen Edwards C Johnson Rampton Rocca | Coope Dunlop Kelly Phillips White | TBD x 3 |
| Liberal Democrats | T Johnson Le Poidevin | Burton T Johnson Earl | Andrews | Le Poidevin | Andrews Brooke Cox | Brooke Earl Trent | Matthews Robson | Burton Maidment | Slade |
| Christchurch Independents | McCormack Hilliard | Flagg | - | Hilliard | McCormack | - | Geary | Geary | TBD x 1 |
| Poole People and ALL | Baron | Baron | Baron | Miles | - | Miles | Evans | Evans | TBD x1 |
| Bournemouth Independent & Greens | Bull | - | Rigby | - | - | Rigby | Northover | Northover | - |
| Labour | - | Farquhar | - | Farquhar | - | Farquhar | | Lewis | - |
| Non-aligned | Bartlett | Bagwell | Brooks | - | D Butt | Bartlett | Butler | - | TBD x 1 |

Summary of financial implications

- There are no financial implications associated with this report for the current financial year in respect of the current scheme of allowances.

Summary of legal implications

- The Council is required to comply with the relevant legislation and regulations when considering and approving the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats.

Summary of human resources implications

8. There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

9. There are no sustainability implications associated with this report.

Summary of public health implications

10. There are no public health implications associated with this report.

Summary of equality implications

11. There are no equality implications associated with this report.

Summary of risk assessment

12. There are no risk implications associated with this report.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.