

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 5 MARCH, 2009

POLITICAL BALANCE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF AUDIT & DEMOCRACY

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Members of changes in the Council's political balance and the resulting changes to the allocation of seats on the Scrutiny Leadership Board and the Audit Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the change to the Council's political balance be noted;**
- 2.2 **That the change in the allocation of seats on the Scrutiny Leadership Board and the Audit Committee be agreed.**

3.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Council – 11 December, 2008 (minute no. 57)

4.0 INFORMATION

- 4.1 Following the decision by Councillors D.G. Allen and G. Ashcroft to resign from the Conservative Group and to join TAWPA, the Council's political balance has been recalculated as follows:

Conservative	25 seats (46.30%)
Labour	18 seats (33.33%)
TAWPA	5 seats (9.26%)
Liberal Democrat	3 seats (5.55%)
Independent	3 seats (5.55%)

- 4.2 The Regulations require main Committees/Boards to be balanced overall, which gives a total of 43 available seats. Given the current structure of the Council the revised allocation of seats is as follows:

		<u>CON</u>	<u>LAB</u>	<u>TAWPA</u>	<u>INDEP</u>	<u>LIB DEM</u>
		(19.90) 20	(14.33) 14	(3.98) 4	(2.39) 2	(2.39) 2
Scrutiny Leadership Board	6	3	2	1(+1)	0(-1)	0(-1)
Standards Committee	8	4	3	1	0	0
Audit Committee	6	2(-1)	2	1(+1)	0	1
Plans Board	8	4	3	0	1	0
Licensing Committee	15	7	5	1	1	1
Total	43	20	15	4	2	2

4.3 At the Council meeting of 11 December, 2008 the membership of the Scrutiny Leadership Board was approved as 3 Conservative seats and 2 Labour seats with TAWPA, the Liberal Democrat and the Independent Groups sharing the remaining seat on a rotational basis. Following the recalculation of the political balance the Liberal Democrat and Independent Groups are no longer entitled to a share of this seat.

4.4 The application of the recalculation of the political balance will, therefore, result in the membership of the Scrutiny Leadership Board becoming 3 Conservative seats, 2 Labour seats and 1 TAWPA seat. The two smaller groups will, however, be entitled to co-opt a member on to the Scrutiny Leadership Board. The membership of the Audit Committee becomes 2 Conservative seats, 2 Labour seats, 1 TAWPA seat and 1 Liberal Democrat seat.

5.0 OTHER INFORMATION

Equality & Diversity	The business of the Council considers equality and diversity in an appropriate manner.
Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report.
Legal Comment	Approval of the allocation of seats on Committees/Boards is a function exercisable by the Council.
Links with Corporate Priorities	The Council seeks to deliver its objectives of providing leadership, accountability and high standards in local democracy.
Opportunities & Risks	The opportunities and risks associated with these proposals have been identified and assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.
Financial Implications	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Ward Implications	Borough wide

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