

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 4 MARCH 2010

POLITICAL BALANCE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Members of the changes in the Council's political balance and the resulting changes in the allocation of seats following the by-elections in the College and The Nedge Wards.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the change in the Council's political balance be noted;
- 2.2 That the reduction in the Licensing Committee to 14 members be approved;
- 2.3 That the change in the allocation of seats on the Licensing Committee and the Audit Committee be approved.

3.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Council – 5 March, 2009 (Minute No. 78)

4.0 INFORMATION

- 4.1 Following the results of the by-elections in the College and The Nedge Wards the Council's political balance has been recalculated as follows:

Conservative	27 seats (50.00%)
Labour	17 seats (31.48%)
Liberal Democrat/Independents	6 seats (11.11%)
TAWPA	4 seats (7.41%)

- 4.2 The Regulations require main Committees/Boards to be balanced overall, which currently gives a total of 43 available seats. These are currently allocated as follows:

		CON	LAB	LD/IND	TAWPA
		(19.90) 20	(14.33) 14	(5.57) 6	(3.19) 3
Scrutiny Leadership Board	6	3	2	1	0
Standards Committee	8	4	2	1	1
Audit Committee	6	2	2	1	1*
Plans Board	8	4	3	1	0
Licensing Committee	15	7	5	2	1
Total	43	20	14	6	3

* TAWPA indicated that they did not wish to take up this seat and, following a vote at Full Council, Cllr John Dixon was appointed

- 4.3 As the Conservative Group now has exactly half of the Council's membership, each Committee needs to have an even number of members in order to balance. It is, therefore, suggested that the Licensing Committee be reduced from 15 to 14 members. This will give a total of 42 available seats, which it is suggested are allocated as follows:

		CON	LAB	LD/IND	TAWPA
		(21.00) 21	(13.22) 13	(4.67) 5	(3.11) 3
Scrutiny Leadership Board	6	3	2	1	0
Standards Committee	8	4	2	1	1
<i>Audit Committee</i>	6	3	2	0	1*
Plans Board	8	4	3	1	0
<i>Licensing Committee</i>	14	7	4	2	1
Total	42	21	13	5	3

* TAWPA indicated that they did not wish to take up this seat and, following a vote at Full Council, Cllr John Dixon was appointed

4.4 Changes from Current Position

- (i) **Conservative Group** – gain one seat on the Audit Committee and have 50% of the membership of the Licensing Committee
- (ii) **Labour Group** – lose one seat on the Licensing Committee
- (iii) **Liberal Democrat/Independents Group** – lose seat on the Audit Committee
- iv) **TAWPA** - no change

4.5 Other Committees/Boards appointed by Council

The current composition of these bodies is as follows:

Appeals Committee – 8 Members (4 Con, 3 Lab, 1 Ind/LD)
Personnel Board – 6 Members (3 Con, 2 Lab, 1 Ind/LD)
Employee JICF – 8 Members (4 Con, 3 Lab, 1 TAWPA)
Parishes Forum – 8 Members (4 Con, 3 Lab, 1 TAWPA)
Development Plan Steering Group – 8 Members (4 Con, 3 Lab, 1 Ind/LD)
Combined Fire Authority – 6 Members (3 Con*, 2 Lab, 1 Ind/LD)
* one seat has been given up to Cllr A Williams

As the Conservative Group already has exactly half the seats on each of these Committees, it is suggested that their composition remains the same.

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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