

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

POLITICAL BALANCE

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE, PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING

LEAD CABINET MEMBERS - CLLR SHAUN DAVIES & CLLR RAE EVANS

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To inform Members of a change in the Council’s political balance and to agree resulting changes to the allocation of seats on Committees and Boards.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the change to the Council’s political balance be noted;

2.2 That the corresponding changes in the number and allocation of seats on the Council’s Committees/Boards be endorsed; and

2.3 That Council appoints the Committees/Boards, Chairs, Vice Chairs and membership thereof, as shown at Appendix 1 of this report, for the remainder of the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	The change will become effective upon the end of the Council meeting.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	There are no financial implications foreseen from adopting the recommendations of this report. RP-12.09.18
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Approval of the allocation of seats on Committees/Boards is a function exercisable by the Council.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	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.

IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact
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4. INFORMATION

4.1 Councillor K R Guy has resigned from the Labour Group and joined the Liberal Democrat/Independent Group. The Council's political balance has, therefore, been recalculated as follows:

Labour	27 seats	(50.00%)
Conservative	21 seats	(38.89%)
Lib Dem/Independent	5 seats	(9.26%)
Non-Aligned	1 seat	(1.85%)

4.2 The Regulations require main Committees/Boards to be balanced overall, subject to the majority of seats being allocated to the political group with the majority of the Council's membership.

4.3 Non-aligned Members do not have an entitlement to seats on Committees/Boards.

4.4 The main Committees/Boards currently have an odd number of seats and it is, therefore, proposed to increase the seats on each Committee to an even number in order to allow for a fairer representation of the political balance. Given the current structure of the Council, the revised allocation of seats is proposed as follows:

	Total Seats	Labour		Conservative		Lib Dem/Ind	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
GOVERNANCE							
Standards	8	4	50.00%	3	37.50%	1	12.50%
Audit	8	4	50.00%	3	37.50%	1	12.50%
Constitution Committee	8	4	50.00%	3	37.50%	1	12.50%
Boundary Review Committee	8	4	50.00%	3	37.50%	1	12.50%
Appeals	8	4	50.00%	4	50.00%	0	0.00%
Personnel Committee	8	4	4.00%	3	37.50%	1	12.50%
REGULATORY							
Planning	8	4	50.00%	3	37.50%	1	12.50%
Licensing	10	5	50.00%	4	40.00%	1	10.00%
SCRUTINY							
Scrutiny Finance & Enterprise	8	4	50.00%	3	37.50%	1	12.50%
Scrutiny Children & Young People	8	4	50.00%	3	37.50%	1	12.50%
Scrutiny Customer Community & Partnership	8	4	50.00%	3	37.50%	1	12.50%
Scrutiny Health & Adult Social Care	8	4	50.00%	4	50.00%	0	0.00%
Scrutiny Management Board	10	5	50.00%	4	40.00%	1	10.00%
Total	108	54	50.00%	43	39.81%	11	10.19%

4.5 The application of the recalculation of the political balance will, also result in a change in the Council's membership of the Combined Fire Authority:-

4.6

	Total Seats	Labour		Conservative		LibDem/Ind	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Fire Authority	6	3	50.00	3	50.00	0	0.00

4.6 Political Balance regulations do not apply to bodies not listed in legislation or where legislation specifically states that the requirement does not apply. It is proposed that the membership of the following Boards and Committees will, therefore, remain unchanged:

	Total Seats	Labour No.	Cons No.	LibDem/Ind No.
Health & Wellbeing Board	6	4	1	1
Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	3	2	1	0
West Mercia Energy Joint Committee	2	2	0	0
WMCA Board	1	1	0	0
WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1	1	0	0
WMCA Audit Committee	1	1	0	0

4.7 The various Committees and Boards, to be appointed for the remainder of 2018/19 are shown at **Appendix 1**.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

No further information required.

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Annual Council – 26 May 2016

Full Council – 19 January 2017

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

**Report prepared by Deborah Moseley, Democratic & Scrutiny Services
Team Leader, Telephone: 01952 383215**