

CITY COUNCIL – 14 JULY 2014

REPORT OF THE LEADER

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To propose amendments to membership of committees as specified in the recommendations in paragraph 2, following the resignation of the Labour whip by Councillor Emma Dewinton.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council agrees

- 2.1 the removal of Councillor Emma Dewinton from the following committees:
- Planning Committee
 - Corporate Parenting Board;
- 2.2 the appointment of councillors to committees as follows:
- Planning Committee – Councillor Gul Khan
 - Corporate Parenting Board – Councillor Sally Longford.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 3.1 The resignation of the Labour whip by Councillor Emma Dewinton has altered the political balance of the Council. Council must, therefore, review membership of its committees in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The allocation of seats on Council committees is governed by legislation and has to be recalculated if there is a change to the political balance. Not to review political balance is not an option.

5 BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 s15 (the 'Act') and Regulations made under s15(1) (e) of that Act, the Council is required to review and determine the representation of political groups on committees and sub committees and allocate places to political groups accordingly.
- 5.2 Political balance has been recalculated and applied to all relevant 'ordinary committees' as specified in the regulations following Councillor Emma Dewinton's resignation of the Labour whip.
- 5.3 The result of the recalculation is that across the 57 seats for the 'ordinary committees'

to which political balance applies, 51 can be allocated to Labour; 4 to Conservatives and 2 to 'others' (ie the independent councillors). Councillor Jeannie Packer has already declined the offer of a seat on one of these committees.

The majority group agreed that seats would, therefore, be distributed as follows: 46 Labour; 10 Conservative; 1 'other'. To achieve this it was proposed to remove Councillor Emma Dewinton from Planning Committee and to appoint her to Trusts and Charities Committee. However Councillor Emma Dewinton has declined the offer of a seat on Trusts and Charities Committee.

- 5.4 The Corporate Parenting Board is not a body that is subject to the statutory political balance calculations. However, to maintain the political balance on the Board as agreed by Council at its annual meeting on 12 May 2014, it is proposed to remove Councillor Emma Dewinton from Corporate Parenting Board and to appoint Councillor Sally Longford instead.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

- 6.1 There are no direct financial or value for money implications arising from this report.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

- 7.1 The Council would be in breach of its statutory duty if it did not appoint committee membership in line with legislation.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

- 8.1 An equality impact assessment of this proposal is not required as it does not involve new or changing policies, services or functions, or financial decisions which will have an effect on services.

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 9.1 None

10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 10.1 Appointments and First Meetings of Boards, Committees and Joint Bodies etc 2014-2015, Report of the Leader to Council, 12 May 2014
- 10.2 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

**COUNCILLOR JON COLLINS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**