

Report to Council

8 November 2022

Subject:	Revision to Political Balance of Committees and Boards, Committee Structure and Appointments
Director:	Surjit Tour - Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
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1 Recommendations







- 1.1 That approval be given to the dis-establishment of the Select Committee for Policy Review.
- 1.2 That, subject to approval of the Scrutiny Review, in addition to the four Scrutiny Vice Chairs, Councillor Trumpeter be appointed to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board
- 1.3 That approval be given to the revised political balance of the committees, boards and other fora for the remainder of 2022-23, as set out in Appendix A.
- 1.4 That Councillor Chidley be nominated to the vacant seat on the Land & Asset Management Committee.
- 1.5 That any revision to the appointments to committees and boards be approved with immediate effect.



2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 A by-election for the Wednesbury South Ward took place on Thursday 27 October 2022, it is therefore necessary for the Council to consider the constitution and political balance of committees and boards for the remainder of 2022-23 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 Council is asked to consider the dis-establishment of the Select Committee for Policy Review as business for this body has concluded and the Committee has not met recently.
- 2.3 Subject to approval of the Scrutiny Review, an adjustment has been made to include the addition of four Scrutiny Vice Chairs and an additional opposition member to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board.
- 2.4 Council is also asked to consider the vacant seat on the Land & Asset Management Committee following the resignation of the former councillor.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		The Council's decision-making structures are designed to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan.
		
		

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides, amongst other things, that where a local authority is divided into different political groups, it will have regard to the allocation to the different political groups on the Council, of all of those seats on any ordinary committee, sub-committee and Joint Authorities established pursuant to Part IV of the Local Government Act 1985.



4.2 The regulations provide for a political group to comprise two or more elected members of a local authority.

4.3 Notification has been received of 3 groups –

Labour	60
Conservative	10
Independent	<u>2</u>
	72

The seats on committees have been allocated according to proportionality rules (as set out in Appendix A).

4.4 A political group represented on the Council may choose to allocate a proportion of its allocation of seats to an elected member who is not in a political group on the Council, without affecting proportionality.

5 Alternative Options

5.1 There is no alternative option, the Council has a duty to allocate seats according to political party, in accordance with the Act and appointment of elected members to committees and other/outside bodies can only be made by full Council.



6 Implications

Resources:	Following removal of the Select Committee, there would be a reduction of a Special Responsibility Allowance.
Legal and Governance:	There is a duty on the Council to allocate seats to political groups, as per the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Council can determine the making of non-executive appointments to committees and other fora. Council is under a legal and constitutional obligation to make appointments to its committees, boards and other fora to ensure the effective operation of the Council's functions and other obligations, duties and responsibilities.
Risk:	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
Equality:	
Health and Wellbeing:	
Social Value	
Climate Change	

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Political Balance of Committees and Boards

8. Background Papers

None

