

# Report to Council

**1 March 2022**

<b>Subject:</b>	Constitution and Political Balance of Committees and Boards and Appointment to Vacancies on Committee, Boards and Other Bodies
<b>Director:</b>	Surjit Tour - Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
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## 1 Recommendations







- 1.1 To approve the political balance of the committees, boards and other fora for the remainder of 2021-22, as set out in Appendix A.
- 1.2 To consider revisions to appointments on committees, boards and other bodies.
- 1.3 That subject to 1.2 above, the nominations received be approved and appointed to those vacant bodies with immediate effect.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 An elected member has changed political party, it is therefore necessary for the Council to consider the constitution and political balance of committees and boards for the remainder of 2021-22 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 Council is also asked to consider any revisions to appointments to committees, boards and other bodies.



### 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	9
Sandwell Together	2
Vacant	1
	<hr/>
	72

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

Following the calculation, there is a reduction of two seats allocated to the Conservative Party.



- 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.
- 4.5 It is recommended that the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board is increased by one voting member to enable Sandwell's faith community to be represented (see appendix). Faith groups were instrumental in providing invaluable support throughout the pandemic, from both a practical perspective and in delivering key messages to the community from trusted sources. There is an opportunity to build on the success and build the relationship with Sandwell's faith sector, by including it in all local decision-making processes and structures, starting with the Health and Wellbeing board. In accordance with S194 of the Health and Social Care Act, the Health and Wellbeing Board was consulted and expressed support for the proposed appointment at its meeting in December 2021.

## 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

<b>Resources:</b>	There are no direct resources arising from this report.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	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.
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	
<b>Social Value</b>	



## 7. Appendices

Appendix A – Political Balance of Committees and Boards

Appendix B – Revisions to appointments to committees/boards/other bodies

## 8. Background Papers

None

