



Decision making by Adur District Council 2017-18

Report by the Director for Communities

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 To note the election of Councillor Lee Cowen, representing the Labour Party for Mash Barn Ward, has affected the political balance on the Council.
- 1.2 To note the re-calculation of the political balance on the Council.
- 1.3 To determine the membership of the 8 seat committees on the Council.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At the Council meeting in July, Council determined a number of matters related to decision making by the Council until May 2018. This report is referenced here: this was based on the political balance and allocation of seats after the resignation of Councillor Ken Bishop from the UKIP group.
- 2.2 Subsequently a by-election in the Mash Barn Ward has taken place following the resignation of Councillor David Lambourne from the Council on 5 July 2017.
- 2.3 Decision making is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2000 and Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 where this relates to Executive arrangements.
- 2.4 The new calculation of the political balance of the Authority is

Number of seats on Council:		Proportion of seats
16	Conservative	55.17%
2	SBRA / Independent	6.90%
6	UKIP	20.69%
4	Labour	13.79%
1	Independent	3.45%

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 Council is asked to note the new political balance of the Council, as set out in 2.4 above.
- 3.2 The effect of the revised political balance on 8 seat committees is the loss of 1 UKIP seat on both the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Adur Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the reallocation of both seats to the Labour Group.
- 3.3 The Labour Group need to give notice of the member(s) to sit on the Committees outlined above. The Labour Group may wish to revisit its current representation on Committees to facilitate the take up of these seats.
- 3.4 The UKIP Group need to give notice of the member(s) relinquishing the seats as detailed in 3.2.

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 s106 Local Government Act 1972 provides that Councils may make standing orders for the regulation of their proceedings and business
- 4.2 s111 Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Council shall have the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
- 4.3 s15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 set out powers and duties in relation to political balance on Committees and the exceptions and exemptions therein.
- 4.4 Local Government Act 2000 as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out regulations regarding appointments to Cabinet and Committees in Councils that have adopted Executive arrangements.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 That the Council notes the election of Councillor Lee Cowen to the Labour Group and the resulting changes to the Political Balance on the Council as detailed at 2.4 in the report.
- 6.2 That Council approves the following committee changes:

Councillor Les Alden becomes a member of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (replacing Cllr Clive Burghard from the UKIP group).

Councillor Lee Cowen becomes a member of the Adur Overview & Scrutiny Committee (replacing Cllr Clive Burghard from the UKIP group).

Councillor Lee Cowen becomes a substitute planning committee member

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

Local Government Act 1972

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Local Government Act 2000

Local government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Knowles on Local Authority Meetings – A manual of Law and Practice

Adur District Constitution adopted in October 2014

Resignation email from David Lambourne 5 July

Declaration of the Result of Poll 5 October 2017

Emails from Councillors Patmore and Alden dated 19 October and 24 October.

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Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Platform 5 Leadership of our places

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 (A) Matter considered and no issues identified
(B) Matter considered and no issues identified

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 Committees must take proper account of the Council's duties to promote compliance with the convention rights scheduled in the Human Rights Act 1988, to reduce crime and disorder and to promote equalities

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

6.0 Human Rights Issues

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

7.0 Reputation

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

8.0 Consultations

8.1 Group Leaders advised of the revised political balance and the effect on seats on committees.

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

12.0 Partnership Working

12.1 The Committee structure of Adur District Council contains a number of Joint Committees with Worthing, Horsham and Mid-Sussex Councils