



Ward(s) Affected: All

Notification of a Change to the Political Makeup of the Council

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To note that there has been a change to the political makeup of the council
- 1.2 To note the re-calculation of the political balance on the Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council notes the revised political balance of the Council as per paragraph 3.4.
- 2.3 That the Council notes the addition of a new independent group and the Group Leader and Deputy Leader of that group as confirmed to the Proper Officer as listed in Para 4.9

3. Context

- 3.1 At the meeting of Annual Council in May 2019 Council determined a number of matters related to decision making by the Council until May 2020. Since

that time two members from the UKIP Party have resigned from the UKIP party and have formed a new independent party.

- 3.2 On the 15 June 2019 a group form was received from Cllr Robin Monk which set up a new independent group of two members with Cllr Monk as the Leader and Cllr Haywood as deputy Leader.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 The new calculation of the political balance of the Authority is:

Number of seats on Council:		Proportion of seats
16	Conservative	55.17%
8	Labour	27.59 %
1	UKIP	0%
2	SBRA / Independent	6.9%
2	Independent	6.9%

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The change in political parties has changed the overall political balance on the council.
- 4.3 Conservative allocation of seats on Committees is correct according to the political balance rules as the majority group (Conservative) has to have a majority on all Committees.
- 4.4 The overall Labour allocation of seats across the Council's Committees is 13.
- 4.5 The overall UKIP allocation of seats on committees has fallen to 0 as groups of one member are not determined to be groups.
- 4.6 The overall SBRA allocation of seats on Committees remains at 3.
- 4.7 The overall newly formed Independent groups allocation of seats on Committees is 3.

- 4.7 As the majority party the Conservative Group must have a majority on each of the Council's relevant non-executive Committees, this means that overall there is an over allocation of seats (a detailed breakdown of this can be found in Annex A of this report). In real terms this means that, in total, opposition parties will be under allocated with regards to seats on Committees.
- 4.8 The former UKIP group had taken just one seat of its seat allocation (that being a seat on the Licensing Committee having previously given up its seat on the Planning Committee). The seat was taken by Cllr Monk who is now part of the independent group and he has indicated that he is happy to continue in that role. Other group Leaders have not raised any objection to this.
- 4.9 Following the resignation of the two UKIP members there is a need for the Council to note that the Leader of the new group is Councillor Robin Monk and the Deputy Group Leader is Liz Haywood.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 Group Leaders were contacted upon the receipt of the new group form.

6. Financial Implications

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

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 s106 Local Government Act 1972 provides that Councils may make standing orders for the regulation of their proceedings and business.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 Local Government Act 2000 as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out regulations regarding appointments to

Executive and Committees in Councils that have adopted Executive arrangements.

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
- Resignation email from Paul Graysmark
- Declaration of the Result of Poll 11 October 2018

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

- 1. Economic**
No issues identified

- 2. Social**
 - 2.1 Social Value**
No issues identified

 - 2.2 Equality Issues**
No issues identified. Recruitment and selection in these matters are reserved to Political Parties

 - 2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**
No issues identified

 - 2.4 Human Rights Issues**
No issues identified

- 3. Environmental**
No issues identified

- 4. Governance**
Issues relating to the Governance structure of the Councils are set out in the report

(a) Representation of Political Groups on the Council

To confirm the political groups and the number and proportion of seats held.

Representation on the Council and the number and proportion of seats held are as follows;

Number of seats on Council:		Proportion of seats
(29)		(100%)
16	Conservative	55.17%
8	Labour	27.59%
1	UKIP	0%
2	Independent (SBRA)	6.90%
2	Independent Group	6.90%

In accordance with the rules on political representation the number of seats to be taken by each political group on the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees equates to:

	Number of seats on Committees:
Conservative (55.17% x 48 seats)	26
Labour (27.59% x 48 seats)	13
UKIP (10.34% x 48 seats)	0
SBRA (6.90% x 48 seats)	3
Independent Group (6.90% x 48 seats)	3

A political group comprises 2 or more Members. Please note that the following are not included in the above figures because the political balance requirements do not apply:

Executive (6 seats)
Joint Strategic Committee (6 seats)

The Majority Group on the Council is entitled to the majority of seats on committees.