

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
REPORT NO:	HCCS/02/19
DATE:	8 January 2019
REPORT FROM:	Head of Corporate and Customer Services/Monitoring Officer
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Mark Pritchard (Organisation – Finance, Performance, Health & Safety and Governance)
CONTACT OFFICER:	Sioned Wyn Davies (Tel: 292202)
SUBJECT:	Appointment of Members to Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Working Groups
WARD:	N/A

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the appointment of Members to the Statutory and Non-Statutory Groups which fall to be reconstituted by the Executive Board.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 As Proper Officer for the purpose under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Head of Corporate and Customer Services recently received written notice from Councillor Paul Rogers that he no longer wishes to be treated as a member of the Wrexham Conservatives Group, but to be treated as “non-aligned”. Therefore, there are now three such non-aligned Members.
- 2.2 Although the impact of the change is minimal, it now falls to the Executive Board to consider the appointment of Members to the Statutory and Non-Statutory Groups which fall to be reconstituted by the Board.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **To agree the size and political balance (where appropriate) of the Statutory Groups set out in Appendix 1, and to agree the appointment of Members to those**

seats so as to give effect to the wishes of the Political Groups to which the seats are allocated.

- 3.2 To agree the size and political balance (where appropriate) of the Executive Board Sub-Committees and Non-Statutory Groups set out in Appendix 2, and to agree the appointment of Members to those seats so as to give effect to the wishes of the Political Groups to which the seats are allocated.**
- 3.3 That this matter be dealt with as an urgent item of business in accordance with Standing Order 43(1) of the Council's Standing Orders.**

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To agree the appointment of Members to the Statutory and Non-Statutory Groups established by the Executive Board. The reason for urgency is to allow those Members appointed to operate immediately.

4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 As Proper Officer for the purpose under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Head of Corporate and Customer Services recently received written notice from Councillor Paul Rogers that he no longer wishes to be treated as a member of the Wrexham Conservatives Group, but to be treated as "non-aligned". Therefore, there are now three such non-aligned Members.
- 4.2 The impact of the change is that the numbers of Members in the declared groups of the Council are as follows:

Independent Group	-	16
Labour Group	-	12
Wrexham Conservatives	-	8
Wrexham Independents	-	8
Plaid Cymru	-	3
Liberal Democrats	-	2
Total	-	49

There are also three non-aligned Members on the Council.

- 4.3 In reviewing the political balance arrangements and allocating seats to political groups on Committees, the Council is obliged to follow the principles established by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, as amended by the Local Government Act 2000, which are:-
- (a) that not all the seats are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the political group with an overall Council majority gets a majority of seats allocated;
 - (c) subject to (a) and (b), the number of seats on the ordinary Committees of the Council which are allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to the total of all seats on the ordinary Committees of the Council as is borne by the number of members of the group to the membership of the Council.

- 4.4 In relation to Sub-Committees, (a) and (b) above apply, but not (c). This is replaced by a requirement that the number of seats on the Sub-Committee allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Sub-Committee as is borne by the number of members of the group to the membership of the Council.
- 4.5 Although Panels and Working Groups are not required to comply with the political balance requirements of Section 15, it has been customary in Wrexham to appoint them on a politically balanced basis. These bodies are not impacted by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.
- 4.6 Appendix 1 identifies the Statutory Groups which are required to be established, the proposed Membership and (where applicable) the allocation of seats on a politically balanced basis.
- 4.7 Appendix 2 identifies the Executive Board Sub-Committees and Non-Statutory Groups established by the Executive Board and provides details of the proposed Membership and (where applicable) the allocation of seats on a politically balanced basis.
- 4.8 The terms of reference for the Statutory Groups, Executive Board Sub-Committees and Non-Statutory Groups are submitted for information in Appendix 3.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Policy Framework

- 5.1 These allocations fall to be determined by the Executive Board under the Council's Constitution.

Budget

- 5.2 The recommendations contained in this report, if approved, will pose no budget implications for the Authority.

Legal

- 5.3 The principles of political balance are identified in the body of the report.

Staffing

- 5.4 This matter poses no staffing implications for the Authority.

Equalities/Human Rights

- 5.5 There are no specific equality and human rights issues arising from this report. Any impacts will be considered as part of EIA CCS/EIA00080/2015 - Committee Administrative Processes.

Risks

- 5.6 Failure to appoint in accordance with the law and/or the Council's Constitution could impact on Council Governance.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Group Leaders have been consulted for their nominations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION	WEBSITE INFO.
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