

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**COUNCIL**

**30 NOVEMBER 2016**

**REVISED POLITICAL BALANCE ALLOCATION OF PLACES 2016**

**VACANT COMMITTEE PLACES**

**BRYN ROBERTS, MONITORING OFFICER**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To recommend the revised allocation of places on committees and sub-committees for 2016 in accordance with the current political balance of the Council.

**BACKGROUND**

2. Members will recall the report presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Council detailing the political balance of the authority as at May 2016. Since that time, there has been a change in group membership (including a by-election) and the political balance of the Council therefore needs to be revised. The rules, duties, and principles outlined in the report to the Annual General Meeting remain applicable.

3. As a result of changes in groups, the total number of places on committees and sub-committees to be allocated in accordance with the political balance of the Council remains at **136**, but the individual allocations to groups are now as follows:

Labour	95 seats
Conservative	12 seats
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association	12 seats
Marton Independent Group	6 seats

4. Previously, the Labour Group had an allocation of 98 seats, and there were 8 unallocated places for Members not in a political group. In line with the above, the reduction of allocated places for the Labour Group leaves an additional 3 unallocated places available for those Members not in a political group. Members have been asked to identify their preference for seats on available committees.

5. As a result of the above, there are now unallocated places on the following committees:

- Teesside Pension Fund;
- Licensing Committee; and

- Staff Appeals,

and nominations for those unallocated places are now sought.

6. In line with usual practice, it is recommended that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend memberships of committees following resignations received from members and to appoint to vacancies in accordance with group preferences or, where not in a group, in accordance with individual Member's wishes. However, where more than one person (non-group members) applies for the same place, they should decide amongst themselves how those places should be allocated. If agreement cannot be reached between the individual Members, the Council will make that determination.
7. It is also noted that, following the resignation of Councillor Shan, Council ratification is required for the appointment of a Vice-Chair to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee (a role previously held by Councillor Shan). Previously, in accordance with the authority delegated to the Monitoring Officer, Councillor Shan's position on that committee was filled by Councillor Denise Rooney, who also acted *pro tem* as Vice-Chair. A formal nomination for the role of Vice-Chair is now sought.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

8. (i) That the revised allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the rules relating to political balance is approved as follows:

Labour	95 seats
Conservative	12 seats
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association	12 seats
Marton Independent Group	6 seats
Independents	11 seats
- (ii) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to fill the unallocated seats as indicated in paragraph 6 and make any necessary further adjustments to remove or replace members where directed by the relevant group or member.
- (iii) That nominations for the vacant places be sought and, where necessary, voted upon.
- (iv) That nominations for the post of Vice-Chair of Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee be sought and, where necessary, voted upon.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

## AUTHOR

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