

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF GOVERNANCE	COUNCIL	17 JULY 2023	10

ADJUSTMENT TO COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

Councillor Brickles has left the Independent group and will sit as a non-aligned councillor. As a result, the political balance calculations and resulting committee allocations should be adjusted. The council is invited to accept the adjustment and appoint a non-aligned councillor to the seat formerly occupied by Councillor Brickles as an Independent.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Allocate the seat on the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee currently occupied by Councillor Brickles as a member of the Independent group to a non-aligned councillor in accordance with the principles of political balance, and appoint a non-aligned councillor to the seat.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The council allocated committee seats in accordance with the principles of political balance at the annual meeting on 24 May.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

1. Councillor Julie Brickles has left the Independent group of councillors. She has not joined another political group and so will sit as a non-aligned, or ungrouped, councillor.
2. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the council to calculate the membership of committees in accordance with the requirements of political balance set out in the act. The four principles of political balance were set out and discussed in a [report to the annual meeting](#) of the council in May.

3. The effect of Councillor Brickles' decision is that one seat which had been allocated to the Independent group should instead be allocated to a non-aligned councillor¹. It is suggested that this should be the seat on the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee currently occupied by Councillor Brickles as a member of the Independent group.
4. Though the seat must be allocated to a non-aligned councillor, it is up to the council which of the two non-aligned councillors (Councillors Brickles and Hayhurst) to appoint to it.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising from the report.
Legal	Political balance is a legal requirement for most committees of the council.
Community Safety	None arising from the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from the report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from the report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from the report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/A		

¹ See section 16(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as modified by regulation 16 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990