

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	15 JULY 2019	7

APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

Councillor Hayhurst has declined to take up seats on the Audit and Standards Committee and Environment, Health and Housing Committee that were allocated to him. In addition, Councillor Hardy has indicated his intention to become a non-aligned member. For political balance purposes this will have the effect of reducing the numbers of Independent group members on the Tourism and Leisure Committee by one, creating a vacancy for a non-aligned member.

Councillor Mulholland has agreed to take the appointment to the Audit and Standards Committee, with Councillor Hardy taking the vacant position on the Environment, Health and Housing Committee and the position on the Tourism and Leisure Committee. Councillor Hardy has also agreed to join the Member Development Steering Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Adjust the allocations of committee seats to reflect the changed political balance of the council by reallocating one seat on the Tourism and Leisure Committee from the Independent group to a non-aligned councillor;
2. Appoint Councillor Mulholland as a member of the Tourism & Leisure Committee in place of a councillor to be named at the meeting.
3. Appoint Councillor Mulholland as a member of the Audit and Standards Committee in place of Councillor Hayhurst.
4. Appoint Councillor Hardy as a member of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee in place of Councillor Hayhurst.
5. Appoint Councillor Hardy to the Member Development Steering Group.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The council resolved to allocate committee seats in accordance with the principles of political balance, as set out in the table contained in the minutes, at the annual meeting on 22 May.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	

REPORT

BACKGROUND

1. As required by legislation, committee seats for municipal year 2019-20 were allocated to members at the annual meeting of the council in May this year. The allocation was in accordance with the principles of political balance set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989¹ and was on the basis of the political balance of the council at that time.
2. Since the annual council meeting, two developments have occurred which has meant that it is necessary to revisit seat allocations. These have been (1) Councillor Hardy's decision to leave his political group and sit as a non-aligned member; and (2) Councillor Hayhurst's decision (having decided he would prefer a roving role rather than committing himself to one or more committees) to not take up the seats that were allocated to him on the Audit and Standards Committee and Environment, Health and Housing Committee.
3. The decision of Councillor Hardy means that one committee seat previously assigned to the Independent group now falls instead to be filled by a non-aligned councillor (or, as the legislation puts it, a person who is not a member of any political group). That seat is on the Tourism & Leisure Committee.
4. The decision of Councillor Hayhurst means that the council needs to look again at the assignment of non-aligned members to the seats allocated to them.

CONSIDERATION

5. One seat on each of the following committees should now be allocated to non-aligned members: Environment, Health & Housing, Operational Services, Tourism & Leisure, Planning. Following discussions with the three non-aligned members, it is recommended that the five committee seats allocated to nonaligned members be assigned as follows:

Environment, Health & Housing	Councillor Hardy
Operational Services	Councillor Mulholland
Tourism & Leisure	Councillor Mulholland
Planning	Councillor Mulholland
Audit & Standards	Councillor Mulholland

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP

6. The Member Development Steering Group is an internal working group and its functions are leading, co-ordinating and monitoring the Council's actions in delivering the Member Development Strategy and taking the lead on general member welfare matters and the membership of the group is cross party and the group is not required to be politically balanced. There are currently five vacancies on the Group and Councillor Hardy has indicated that he will take up one of these positions. If any other council members would like to put their names forward for inclusion within the group, this would be welcomed.

¹ Section 16, as modified by regulation 16 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 in its application to councils where some members are not members of a political group.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Legal	Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as modified by regulation 16 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990) requires that a proportional number of seats be allocated to non-aligned members, as well as members of political groups. It was established by the case of R v Sunderland Corporation that a councillor cannot be compelled to accept a committee seat.
Community Safety	None arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		