

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	18 OCTOBER 2021	8

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The report outlines requests received from Councillor Karen Buckley, Leader of the Council, and Councillor Liz Oades, Leader of the Independents, for changes to the committee membership.

It would also be convenient for Council to consider filling a vacancy on the Member Development Steering Group which has remained unfilled since the Group was re-appointed in April 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To appoint Councillor Dixon as a member of the Environment, Health & Housing Committee in place of Councillor Nixon.
2. To appoint Councillor Dixon as Vice Chairman of the Environment, Health & Housing Committee in place of Councillor Nixon.
3. To appoint Councillor Gavin Harrison as a member of the Planning Committee in place of Councillor Dixon.
4. To appoint Councillor Gill as a member of the Operational Management Committee in place of Councillor Brinkles.
5. To nominate a member to fill the vacancy on the Member Development Steering Group.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council - 19 April 2021 - Confirmation of Committees and Allocation of Membership for the municipal year 2021/22. This decision included the appointment of committee chairman.

Council – 5 July 2021 – Changes to the Audit & Standards committee

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

POLITICALLY BALANCED COMMITTEES

1. As required by legislation, committee seats for municipal year 2021-22 were allocated to members at the meeting of the council in April this year. The allocation was in accordance with the principles of political balance set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989¹. The following changes to committee memberships and appointments have been requested:
 - **Environment Health and Housing Committee:** Councillor Dixon to replace Councillor Nixon as a member and as vice-chairman, requested by the Conservative group.
 - **Planning Committee:** Councillor Harrison to replace Councillor Dixon, requested by the Conservative group.
 - **Operational Management Committee:** Councillor Gill to replace Councillor Brickles, requested by the Independent group.
2. The requests to change membership of the Planning Committee and Operational Management Committee are made by the political groups to whom the respective seats have been allocated and the Council is obliged to accept the nominations. The council is not obliged to accept the requested change to the vice-chairmanship of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP

3. The Member Development Steering Group is not a committee, but it is convenient to deal with appointments to it in this report. There is currently one vacancy on the Group.
4. The 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. Whilst there are no requirements for the Group to be politically balanced, to conform with the recommendations North West Employers, the membership of the group is cross party.
5. The Group has a membership of 8 and Council is invited to nominate a member to fill the vacancy.

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

¹Section 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.

None		
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Attached Documents

Appendix 1 – Proposed changes to committees