

**TO: COUNCIL
29 NOVEMBER 2017**

**MEMBERSHIP OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
Director of Resources – Democratic and Registration Services**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the revised position regarding the appointment of Members to serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Commission since Annual Council on 24 May 2017 and the Council meeting on 12 July 2017.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission size and allocation of seats are agreed as set out in paragraph 5 of the report; and**
- 2.2 **That Councillors Peacey and Virgo be appointed as members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To finalise committee appointments.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Following Councillor Phillips' resignation from both the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel in May 2017 a Conservative vacancy has been identified on the Overview and Scrutiny Commission. Through custom and practice all the Overview and Scrutiny Panels are represented on the Commission by their Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The new Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairman, Councillor Mrs McCracken, is already a member of the Commission however the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Virgo is not.
- 5.2 As part of the consultation regarding the vacancy the Conservative Group proposed a variation to the size of the Commission increasing its membership from 13 to 14 members.
- 5.3 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to allocate seats on ordinary and overview and scrutiny committees to political groups for the forthcoming municipal year, in accordance with the size of each group on the Council as a whole, unless alternative arrangements are notified to all Members and agreed without any Councillor voting against them. The Council is also required to make appointments to committees in accordance with the wishes of the political group to which each seat has been allocated.
- 5.4 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 introduced provisions in order to ensure that the political balance on committees reflects the political complexion of the

Unrestricted

Council. In order to achieve this, the Council is required to observe the following principles as far as is reasonably practicable:

- (a) that not all seats on the committee are allocated to the same political group;
- (b) that the majority of seats on each committee should be allocated to a particular political group if the number of members of the group is a majority of the authority's membership;
- (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the total number of all seats allocated to each political group on ordinary committees should reflect the political balance of the Council; and
- (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on each committee allocated to each political group should reflect the political balance of the Council.

5.5 The proposal for the 14 seats is in accordance with the proportionality rules:

Conservative Group 13; Labour 1

5.6 If agreed this alteration creates an additional vacancy and it is proposed that Councillors Virgo and Peacey be appointed to fill these vacancies in accordance with the wishes of the Conservative Group.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 Nothing to add to the report.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 There are no additional revenue implications arising from the above recommendations.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 Not relevant to this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 Not relevant to this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 Conservative Group

Method of Consultation

7.2 Discussion

Representations Received

8.3 Incorporated within the report.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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