



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

Report of the Director - Legal and Democratic Services

**Changes to Political Balance and Committee Memberships
and Outside Body Appointments**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Following the Swadlincote South by election, the political balance of the Council has changed. As a result, the allocation of seats to committees and the appointment to one outside body must be updated and this report proposes to make the necessary changes.

2. Information and Analysis

Committee Membership

- 2.1 In determining the membership of committees, account must be taken of the requirements of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended made under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These regulations require that seats on committees and sub-committees are allocated in a way which reflects the overall political balance of the Council and that the Council gives effect to the wishes of the political groups in the appointments to those seats.
- 2.2 Allocation of seats by a Council must give effect to the following principles set out in the 1989 Act. The principles have to be applied in priority order as follows:
- (a) that not all the seats are allocated to the same political group;

- (b) that the majority of seats are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group are a majority of the authority's membership;
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, that the total number of all seats of the ordinary committees allocated to each particular political group reflects the group's proportion to the membership of the authority;
- (d) subject to (a) – (c) above, that the number of seats allocated to a particular political group reflects that group's proportion of the membership of the authority.

2.4 The current political make-up of the Council is:

	Members	Percentage of seats	Actual seats
Conservative Group	41 (-1)	65.08	65
Labour Group	16 (+1)	25.40	26
Liberal Democrat Group	4	6.35	6
Reform UK Group	2	3.17	3

There are a total of 100 committee seats to be allocated for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year. The allocation of seats on the committees and sub-committees of the Council is, therefore, as follows:

Committee	Total Seats	Con	Lab	Lib dem	Reform
Appointments and Conditions of Service	8	5 (-1)	3 (+1)	0	0
Audit	6	4	1	0	1
DCC Trading	5	4	1	0	0
Governance Ethics and Standards	8	6	2	0	0
I&S - Climate	10	6	3	1	0
I&S - Health	9	6	2	1	0
I&S - People	9	5	2	1	1
I&S - Places	9	5 (-1)	3 (+1)	1	0
I&S - Resources	9	6	3	0	0
Pensions and Investments	8	5	1	1	1
Planning Delegation Sub	4	3	1	0	0
Regulatory – Planning	10	7	2	1	0
SACRE	5	3	2	0	0
Total	100	65	26	6	3

2.5 As a result of the by election, the Labour Group need to be

allocated two additional seats across the Committees of the Council so that the seats on committees reflect overall political balance of the Council. The appointment to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places was made to replace the seat left vacant by Councillor Redfern’s sad death. The seat left vacant by Councillor Redfern on the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction could not be taken by a member of the Labour Group as this would result in that committee becoming too imbalanced. Therefore, it was agreed that the additional seat would be taken from the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee.

2.6 In order to facilitate the required changes to representatives, the Group Leaders of the Conservative and Labour Groups have been asked to provide the necessary nominations to seats.

2.7 The Conservative Group has advised that Councillor Swann will be appointed as the Council’s representative to the National Coal Mining Museum for England Liaison Committee. This will be to replace the late Councillor Redfern.

3. Consultation

3.1 There is no requirement for public consultation on this report. Relevant Political Groups have been contacted for their nominations as appropriate.

4. Alternative Options Considered

4.1 The Council must make the appointments to Committees to ensure political balance, although members could choose to make different appointments to those suggested.

5. Implications

5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

6. Background Papers

6.1 None identified

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

8. Recommendation(s)

That Council:

Approves the following changes to representation on committees:

- 1) Remove Councillor R Flatley from the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee;
- 2) Add a Councillor from the Labour Group (to be notified verbally at this meeting) as a Member of the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee
- 3) Add a Councillor from the Labour Group (to be notified verbally at this meeting) as a Member of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places;
- 4) Add Councillor A Gibson as a member of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction;
- 5) Appoint Councillor G Hickton as the Vice-Chair of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction;
- 6) Appoint Councillor S Swann as the Council's representative on the National Coal Mining Museum for England Liaison Committee

9. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 9.1 To ensure that the Committees of the Council are politically balanced as required by relevant legislation.
- 9.2 To ensure that the Council has sufficient membership on its committees that reflect the wishes of political groups.

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Implications

Financial

1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising this report.

Legal

2.1 Legal implications have been considered in the body of the report.

Human Resources

3.1 None

Information Technology

4.1 None

Equalities Impact

5.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 None

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental, Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None