



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

18 July 2024

Report of the Director - Legal and Democratic Services

Changes to Committee Memberships and Outside Body Appointments

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Following notification that Councillor Gourlay is no longer a member of the Conservative Group, the membership of committees and the appointment to three outside bodies must be updated and this report proposes to make the necessary changes. In addition to this, the Council has also been asked to nominate named substitute members to the regulatory committees of the East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA).

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 Council received notification that Councillor Gourlay is no longer a member of the Conservative Group on 11 June 2024. The political make-up of the Council prior to the change in group membership and following the change is shown below:

| | Members | Percentage of seats | Actual seats |
|------------------------|---------|---------------------|--------------|
| Conservative Group | 41 | 65.08 | 65 |
| Labour Group | 16 | 25.40 | 26 |
| Liberal Democrat Group | 4 | 6.35 | 6 |
| Reform UK Group | 2 | 3.17 | 3 |
| Ungrouped Members | 1 | n/a | n/a |

| | Members | Percentage of seats | Actual seats |
|------------------------|---------|---------------------|--------------|
| Conservative Group | 40 (-1) | 64.52 | 65 |
| Labour Group | 16 | 25.81 | 26 |
| Liberal Democrat Group | 4 | 6.45 | 6 |
| Reform UK Group | 2 | 3.23 | 3 |
| Ungrouped Members | 2 (+1) | n/a | n/a |

2.5 As a result of the change, as demonstrated above, there is no change to the allocation of seats to each group. It is therefore necessary for the Conservative Group to nominate members to replace Councillor Gourlay on the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places and the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Health.

2.5 Following the change in group membership it is also necessary to change the Council's representative on two Outside Bodies which are the High Peak Community Safety Partnership and the Peak District Partnership. Nominations to the regulatory committees of the EMCCA

have been sought from political groups as dictated by the overall political balance of the EMCCA area.

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

2.7 The Groups have advised of the appropriate nominations as follows:

| Name of Committee/Outside Body | Nomination |
|---|---|
| Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places | Councillor Ford |
| Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Health | Councillor Grooby |
| High Peak Community Safety Partnership | Councillor Wharmby |
| Peak District Partnership | Councillor Hobson |
| EMCCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Councillor Flatley (Conservative) Councillor George (Labour) |
| EMCCA Audit and Governance Committee | Councillor Atkin (Conservative) Councillor Clarke (Labour) |

3. Consultation

3.1 There is no requirement for public consultation on this report. The relevant Political Group has 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 the Conservative Group 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:

- 1) Approves the following changes to representation on committees and outside bodies in place of Councillor Gourlay:
 - a) Appoint Councillor Ford to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places;
 - b) Appoint Councillor Grooby to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Health;
 - c) Appoint Councillor Wharmby as the Council's representative on the High Peak Community Safety Partnership; and
 - d) Appoint Councillor Hobson as the Council's representative to the Peak District Partnership.
- 2) Appoints Councillors Flatley and George as named substitute members of the East Midlands County Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 3) Appoints Councillors Atkin and Clarke as named substitute members of the East Midlands County Combined Authority Audit and Governance 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.

Report Author: Alec Dubberley **Contact details:** alec.dubberley@derbyshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01629 539035

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