

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

18 March 2020

**Report of the Executive Director for
Commissioning, Communities and Policy**

CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval to changes to the political balance of the Council's Committees following the result of the by-election held in the Whaley Bridge Division.

2. Information and Analysis

The duty to allocate seats to political groups is contained in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 with additional provisions regarding political balance being set out in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. Amongst the provisions of the Act and the Regulations, is the stipulation that as far as possible, the political balance of the Council's Committees should reflect the overall political make-up of the Council. It is also stipulated however, that the majority group should have a majority on each individual committee of the Council. An exact balance therefore, is difficult to achieve.

The recent election of Councillor George to the Whaley Bridge Division has meant that there is a change to the political balance of the Council and therefore representation on the Council's Committees. The effect is that the Conservative Group should have one less seat on the Council's Committees and the Labour Group, one additional seat. To achieve this, it is proposed that the change should be made to the membership of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – People. Details of the changes will be reported verbally to the meeting.

3. Legal Considerations

The appointment of Members to Council Committees and the political make-up is a function of Full Council as set out in the Constitution.

4. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5. Officer's Recommendation

That Council approve the changes to the political balance of the Council's Committees and the changes to the membership of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – People.

EMMA ALEXANDER
Executive Director for Commissioning, Communities and Policy