

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 17 JULY 2019

SUBJECT:	Committee Memberships - Proportionality of the Council and Reallocation of Seats
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DATE:	July 2019
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report informs the Council of the outcomes of a review of the entitlement to political groups and independent members to seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Parties in line with proportionality rules.

The report also provides an update on the changes to Committee Memberships being reported to the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the changes to Committee Memberships, as circulated at the meeting, be noted; and
- (2) the following appointments to chairmanships be agreed:
 - a. Councillor Ms Seex to replace Councillor Buckland as Chairman of the Littlehampton Regeneration Sub-Committee;
 - b. Councillor Bennett to become Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee;
 - c. Councillor Bennett to become Chairman of the Housing & Customer Services Working Group; and
 - d. Councillor Coster to become Vice-Chairman of the Housing & Customer Services Working Group.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following notification of Councillor Tracey Baker and Councillor Ian Buckland both becoming independent members not aligned to any political group, it is the duty of the Council to review the entitlement of political groups to seats on committees in line with the proportionality rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 1.2 Based on the latest changes, the number of members of each political group or independent group and their proportion of the 54 councillors is set out overleaf:

Liberal Democrat	20	37%
Conservative	21	38.8%
Independent	7	12.9%
Green	2	3.7%
Labour no aligned to any group	1	1.85%
Independent not aligned to any group (Other Independents)	3	5.5%

- 1.3 Under the proportionality rules, if there are members of the Council who do not belong to a political group then, once the division of seats between the political groups has been made, any remaining seats should be allocated to these members by the Council. This has not been an issue for the Council before with only 1 or 2 members not being aligned to a political group. However, this position has changed with the latest notifications and the number of non-aligned (or 'independent') councillors increasing to 4.
- 1.4 The Group Leaders and Other Independent councillors have been made aware of the outcomes of the proportionality review and the changes to Committee Memberships are being reported to the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26.2.

2.0 PROPOSALS

- 2.1 Appendix 1 sets out the latest proportionality and number of seats allocated on Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Parties. Appendix B confirms the changes to Committee Memberships or where notification is still awaited. It also seeks agreement to the appointment to vacant chairmanships.

3.0 OPTIONS

None as the Council needs to follow legislative and constitutional requirements

4.0 CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Leaders and Other Independent councillors 	✓	

5.0 ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail below)	YES	NO
Financial		✓
Legal	✓	
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

6.0 IMPLICATIONS:

None

7.0 REASON FOR THE DECISION:

To reflect legislative and constitutional requirements for reviewing the proportionality and allocation of seats to Committees.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/42/section/15>

Arun's Constitution

<https://www.arun.gov.uk/constitution>