

Report to: **Council**
Date: **16 July 2020**
Title: **Revised Political Composition of the Council**
Portfolio Area: **Leader – Cllr Judy Pearce**
Wards Affected: **All**
Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and **Y**
clearance obtained:

Date next steps can be taken: **Immediately following this meeting**

Author: **Darryl White** Role: **Democratic Services Manager**

Contact: darryl.white@swdevon.gov.uk or **01803 861247**

RECOMMENDATION

That, with immediate effect:

- 1. the revised political composition of the Council be noted as follows:**
 - **Conservative Group: 16 Members;**
 - **Liberal Democrat Group: 10 Members;**
 - **Green Party Group: 2 Members; and**
 - **Non-aligned Independents: 3 Members; and**
- 2. Cllr J Hodgson be appointed to serve on the Licensing Committee for the period until the next Annual Council meeting.**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 On 21 June 2020, the Council received formal notification from Cllr Sweett that, with immediate effect, she had resigned from the Green Party Group and it was her intention to become an Independent Member of the Council;
- 1.2 Cllr Sweet's decision has had implications on both the political balance and, as a consequence, the appointments to formal Bodies of the Council.
- 1.3 This report therefore requests that the Council amends the membership of its Licensing Committee to reflect the revised political balance.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its inaugural remote meeting on 23 April 2020, the Council adopted a set of Remote Meeting Procedure Rules (Minute 79/19 refers);
- 2.2 Paragraph 3.1(a) of the adopted Rules states that:
- 'While these Remote Meetings Procedure Rules apply, the Council will not hold an Annual Meeting.'*
- 2.3 Irrespective of this decision, the changes to the political composition of the Council have had a minor impact on the political balance table (as outlined at Appendix A) that requires addressing;
- 2.4 As Leader of the Green Party Group, Cllr Hodgson has been invited to submit her nominations in line with the amended political balance table and she has subsequently nominated herself to serve on the Licensing Committee.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 The Council is asked to note its revised political composition and, with immediate effect, approve the consequent nomination to appoint Cllr Hodgson to serve on its Licensing Committee.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 Failure to apply the rules of political balance could render a formal Member Body of the Council to be unlawful. However, this risk is mitigated by the revised nominations list.

5. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 set out the political balance rules for the allocation of formal Committee seats.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	Y	There will be no financial implications linked to this report.
Risk	Y	The risk implications are set out at Section 4 above.

Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	Council Theme – <i>Efficient and effective</i>
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	N/A
Climate Change & Biodiversity	N	N/A
Safeguarding	N	N/A
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	N/A
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	N/A
Other implications	N	None

Appendices:

A – Revised Political Balance table.

Background Documents:

Council Constitution; and
 Agenda and Minutes arising from the Remote Meeting of the Council held on 23 April 2020.