

Report to: **Council**

Date: **5 April 2022**

Title: **Revised Political Composition of the Council and Member Appointments**

Portfolio Area: **Leader – Cllr Neil Jory**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

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

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That, with immediate effect and for the remainder of the 2021/22 Municipal Year:**

- 1. the revised political composition of the Council be noted as follows:**
  - **Conservative Group: 17 Members;**
  - **West Devon Alliance Group: 12 Members;**
  - **Non-aligned Independents: 2 Members.**
- 2. Cllr D Turnbull be appointed to serve on:**
  - **the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and**
  - **the Communications & Media and People & Community Hub Advisory Groups; and**
- 3. Cllr N Jory be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee.**

#### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 Cllr David Turnbull was elected to represent the Tavistock North Ward on the Borough Council at a By-Election held on 17 February 2022.

- 1.2 As a result, there are implications on both the political balance and, as a consequence, the appointments to formal Bodies of the Council.
- 1.3 This report requests that the Council amends the membership of some of its formal and informal Bodies to reflect the revised political balance;
- 1.4 These changes will be in place for the remainder of the 2021/22 Municipal Year (i.e. up to the Annual Council meeting to be held on 24 May 2022).

## **2. Background**

2.1 The changes to the political composition of the Council are set out below and have had a consequential minor impact on the political balance table that requires addressing:

- Conservative Group: 17 Members;
- West Devon Alliance Group: 12 Members; and
- Non-aligned Independents: 2 Members.

2.2 The Leader of Council has been invited to submit his nominations in line with the amended political balance table and these are set out below:

- That Cllr D Turnbull be appointed to serve on:
  - the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
  - the Communications & Media and People & Community Hub Advisory Groups.
- That Cllr N Jory be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee.

## **3. Outcomes/outputs**

3.1 The Council is asked to note its revised political composition and, with immediate effect, approve the consequent nominations to its formal Bodies and Hub Advisory Groups.

## **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>
<b>Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications</b>		
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:**

None

**Background Documents:**

Revised Political Balance Table; and Council Constitution.