

Agenda Item No:

Report No:

Report Title: **Change to Composition of the Conservative Group and Committee Memberships**

Report To: **Council**

Date: **27 February 2013**

Ward(s) Affected: **All**

Report By: **Corporate Head – Legal and Democratic Services**

Contact Officer(s)-

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Purpose of Report:

To report a change in the composition of the Conservative Group.

To confirm the changes and appointments to Committee memberships.

Officers Recommendation(s):

- 1 To note that notice has been received from Councillor D R Edmunds stating that she no longer wishes to be treated as a member of the Conservative Group.
 - 2 That the changes to the Committee memberships, as set out in paragraph 8 of the Report, be confirmed and noted.
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Reasons for Recommendations

- 1 To comply with the Council's legal duties and to implement changes in accordance with the Constitution.

Information

Change to composition of the Conservative Group

- 2 The Chief Executive has received written notice from Councillor Donna Edmunds stating that she no longer wishes to be treated as a member of the Conservative Group.
- 3 Receipt of this notice does not trigger a review of the Council's political balance on committees. Apart from the review of political balance at Annual Council each year, reviews are only to be carried out at such other times as prescribed

in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These are when written notice is given:

- (a) that a new political group has been formed; or
 - (b) that a member wishes to join an existing political group, and that group requests a review of the Council's political balance; neither of which has occurred.
- 4 Neither of these events has occurred.
- 5 The political composition of the Council is now as follows:
- Conservative Group – 21
 - Liberal Democrat Group – 18
 - Independent member – 1
 - UKIP member – 1
- 6 Councillor Edmunds has notified me of her wish to be described as a UKIP member. This does not affect the Council's current political balance on committees as a new political group can only be regarded as constituted where at least two members of the authority provide written notice to the Chief Executive stating that they wish to be treated as a political group.

Committee memberships

- 7 The seats occupied by Councillor Edmunds on the Planning Applications Committee, Scrutiny Committee and Landport Bottom Management Committee continue to be seats which are allocated to the Conservative Group.
- 8 The Leader of the Conservative Group has informed me that their Group wish to make changes to these committee memberships as follows:
- 8.1 **Planning Applications Committee** – Councillor H J F Sheppard to replace Councillor D R Edmunds.
 - 8.2 **Scrutiny Committee** – Councillor J M Harrison-Hicks to replace Councillor D R Edmunds.
 - 8.3 **Landport Bottom Management Committee** – position currently vacant to replace Councillor D R Edmunds.
- 9 In accordance with Council Procedure Rules (Procedures for Appointments, page D23, paragraph 3.4), the Corporate Head – Legal and Democratic Services has made these appointments which now need to be confirmed formally by Council.

Financial Appraisal

- 10 There are no financial implications arising from this Report.

Legal Implications

11 None above and beyond those set out in the body of the Report.

Sustainability Implications

12 I have completed the Sustainability Implications Statement questionnaire and there are no significant effects as a result of this Report.

Risk Management Implications

13 There are no risk management implications arising as a result of this Report. If the recommendations are not implemented, the main risk will be that the Council fails to meet its legal duties and the requirements of the Constitution are not met.

Equality Screening

14 I have completed the initial Equality Analysis Screening exercise and no potential negative impacts were identified as a result of this Report. Therefore, a full Equality Analysis is not required.

Background Papers

15 None

Appendices

16 None