

Selection and Constitutional Review Committee

19th November 2020

Report of the Member Services Manager (Operational)

Membership of new Licensing and Regulatory Committees.

Purpose of Report

To consider the appointment of Members to the two new Licensing and Regulatory Committees. This follows the previous recommendation of this Committee to create these Committees in place of the existing Licensing and Health and Safety Committee. If the proposals to amend the Committee structure are not agreed earlier at this Meeting, then the proposals in this report will not be necessary.

External Consultees

None.

Internal Consultees

The Leaders of Groups on the Council.

Financial/Legal and Human Rights Implications

The Authority is required to adopt a political balance which complies with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated regulations. Alternative arrangements are permitted only if no individual Member votes against the proposal.

Staffing Implications

None.

Environmental Implications

None.

Corporate Strategy

Not relevant in the context of this report.

Consideration

In normal circumstances, any changes to the Authority's Committee Structure part way through a Municipal Year would result in the need for a review of the Political Balance of the Authority for the remainder of that Year. However, at the current time, following the passing of Councillor Alex Ward, the Council has a vacant seat which, due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, cannot be filled by a By-Election until May 2021. The Political Balance Regulations under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 do not allow a re-balance to take place whilst there are vacant seats. Normally a By-Election would be able to take place in a matter of weeks so this issue would not arise.

To resolve this impasse, and to allow the two new Committees to be operational and discharge their duties from January 2021, it is proposed that until the By-Election can take place (hopefully May 2021), membership of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees should mirror the current membership of the existing Licensing and Health and Safety Committee (as detailed at Appendix A to this report). This will ensure continuity of membership and previously trained Members. The Committees will then be able to operate until such time that it is possible for the Council to agree a full re-balance report (hopefully in May 2021 when the result of the By-Election will be known). That report will reflect the new balance of the Authority and be operational in the normal way for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

Group Leaders have been consulted on this proposal and are supportive.

Recommendations:

That until such time that the By-Election for the vacant Beaver Ward Seat can take place, and the Council can adopt a new Political Balance for the Authority, that membership of the new Licensing and Regulatory Committees mirror the current membership of the existing Licensing and Health and Safety Committee (as detailed at Appendix A).

Danny Sheppard
Member Services Manager (Operational)

LICENSING AND HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (13 MEMBERS)

Group Leaders are reminded of the importance of nominating Members who are available to attend day-time hearings of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Training is compulsory for anyone sitting on the Licensing and Health and Safety Committee.

Conservative (8)	Ashford Independent (3)	Labour (2)	Green (0)
Buchanan	Ledger	Farrell	
Burgess	Rogers	L Suddards	
Feacey	Smith		
Krause (VCh)			
Mulholland			
Pickering			
Shorter			
Webb (Ch)			