

COUNCIL – 22 FEBRUARY 2011

NEW POLITICAL GROUP ON THE COUNCIL AND REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS

Report of the: Chief Executive

Status: For decision

Executive Summary: Councillor McGarvey has advised the Chief Executive that he has ceased to be a member of the Liberal Democrat Group and together with Councillor Pett has given notice of their intention to form a new Political Group on the Council. In view of this a review of the allocation of committee seats has been carried out and this report outlines the outcome of that review.

This report supports the Key Aim of effective management of Council resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. P Fleming

Head of Service Head of Legal and Democratic Services – Mrs. Christine Nuttall

Recommendations: It be RESOLVED that

- a) Councillor McGarvey's cessation of membership of the Liberal Democrat Group be noted;
- b) The formation of a new Political Group, The Independent Group, by Councillors McGarvey and Pett be noted;
- c) It be noted that Councillor Pett will be the Leader of The Independent Group and Councillor McGarvey will be Deputy Leader;
- d) Following a review of the allocation of committee seats to each of the Political Groups in proportion to their strength on the Council that Councillors McGarvey and Pett should continue to serve on the Committees to which they were appointed in May 2010 as members of The Independent Group; and
- e) Councillor McGarvey should continue to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Performance and Governance Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Background

- 1 In accordance with paragraph 10 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 Councillor P McGarvey has given notice that he has ceased to be a member of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council.

- 2 Councillor McGarvey and Councillor Pett have informed the Chief Executive of their wish to be treated as a political group in accordance with paragraph 8 of the 1990 Regulations. The new Group will be known as The Independent Group and Councillor Pett will be the Group Leader and Councillor McGarvey the Deputy Leader.
- 3 In view of this a review of the allocation of committee seats to the political groups on the Council has taken place to ensure that the allocation of seats meets the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the 1990 Regulations.
- 4 The conclusion of this review is that the new entitlement of the Liberal Democrat Group is reduced by the two seats and the entitlement of the new group would be five seats. This matches the seats on existing committees held by Councillors McGarvey and Pett and it is therefore recommended that Councillors McGarvey and Pett continue to serve on the committees to which they were appointed in May 2010 but as members of The Independent Group. Councillor McGarvey is also Vice-Chairman of the Performance and Governance Committee and it is also recommended that he continue in this role for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Key Implications

Financial implications

- 5 None. Councillor Pett has indicated that he will not be seeking a Special Responsibility Allowance as a Group Leader.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

- 6 None.

Impact on and Outcomes for the Community

- 7 None.

Conclusions

- 8 The resignation of Councillor McGarvey from the Liberal Democrat Group and the formulation of a new political group containing two Members has prompted a review of the allocation of seats to the political groups. It is recommended that Councillors McGarvey and Pett should continue to serve on the existing committees to which they have been appointed but as members of The Independent Group. This continues to satisfy the proportionality requirements.

Sources of Information:

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

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