



Extraordinary Council 26 June 2019

Committee Appointments

Purpose of report

Further to the recent resignation of Councillor Marika Hillson from East Northamptonshire Council on 28 May 2019, this report invites Council to postpone making appointments to its committees as a result of changes to political balance until after the outcome of the Irthlingborough Waterloo Ward by-election is known.

Attachments

None

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Council is required by law to allocate seats on its committees and other prescribed bodies so as to give effect to political balance rules set out in sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Local Government Committee and Political Group Regulations 1990.
- 1.2 Political balance should always be recalculated in the following instances:-
- i) Following every election or by-election to the council;
 - ii) Prior to every annual meeting of the Council;
 - iii) Following the creation or abolition of any of the prescribed committees or bodies set out in the regulations;
 - iv) Following any change to political groupings.

2.0 Resignation of Cllr Marika Hillson

- 2.1 On 28 May 2019, Marika Hillson resigned as a councillor for Irthlingborough Waterloo Ward. As a result of this resignation, the Independent Group now becomes the sole opposition group; due to the minimum threshold being two councillors to form a Group, there is consequently no longer a Labour Group on the authority.

As a result the make up of the council is therefore now as follows:-

Conservative Group	Independent Group	Other
36 seats	2 seats	1 Labour Seat 1 vacancy

- 2.2 At the time of writing, the date of the by-election is not yet known, the notice of vacancy having been issued on Monday 10 June 2019. However, it is anticipated the by-election will likely be held towards the end of July 2019.

2.3 In accordance with paragraph 1.2 above, the resignation requires a recalculation of political balance and a change in appointments to committees and other prescribed bodies on the council, which would normally be required to be brought to this, the next available, meeting of the Council.

2.4 Following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition it is recommended that changes in appointments be delayed until after the result of the Irthingborough Waterloo Ward By-Election is known. The advantage of this is that members of the Council are only subject to one round of committee changes as a result of the councillor's resignation and forthcoming by-election, rather than two, and so causing minimal disruption to council business.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

4.0 Privacy Implications

4.1 There are no privacy implications arising from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The Council can only depart from the rules governed by the 1990 committee and political balance regulations by passing a resolution with no members voting against.

5.2 This report ensures that ENC is meeting its legal obligations.

6.0 Risk Implications

6.1 There are no discernible risk implications arising from the contents of this report.

7.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

7.1 There are no discernible equality and diversity implications arising from the contents of this report.

8.0 Constitutional Implications

8.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

9.0 Customer Service Implications

9.1 There are no customer service implications arising from this report.

10 Corporate Outcomes

10.1 The Corporate Outcome to which this approach contributes is Effective Management – good use of resources.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 Council is asked to:

- a) Postpone making appointments to its committees and prescribed bodies as a result of changes to political balance until after the outcome of the Irthingborough Waterloo Ward by-election is known.

[Reason: To comply with committee and political balance regulations].

Legal	Power: Local Government Act 1972				
	Other considerations: Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Local Government Committee and Political Group Regulations 1990.				
Background Papers: None					
Person Originating Report: Ben Smith, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager					
Date: 13 June 2019					
CFO 17/06/19		MO (Deputy)		CX 17/06/19	