

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
The Leader of the Council (Cllr Gibson) and the Chief Executive	Council	5 March 2015	5

### Appointments to Committees 2014/15

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To comply with the requirement to formally report on changes to the political balance of the Council and, to enable the implications for appointments to committees to be considered.

#### 2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Effective arrangements to carry out the Council's non-executive decision making and advisory functions for the remainder of 2014/15.

#### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the resignation of Cllr Williams from the Conservative Group with effect from 5 March 2015 be noted.
- 3.2 That Cllr Williams be removed from the Planning Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### 4. Background

- 4.1 Councillor Williams notified the Chief Executive on 24 February 2015 that he intends to resign from the Conservative Group, with effect from 5 March 2015. He will sit as an Independent Member until the Council elections in May.
- 4.2 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the allocation of places on non-executive Committees of the Council be allocated to reflect the political balance of the Council as a whole. The detailed criteria on which the calculations must be made were set out in the report submitted to the Annual Meeting of Council on 8 May 2014, when the allocation of places on Committees for 2014/15 was initially agreed. At that meeting Cllr Williams was appointed, as a nominee of the

Conservative Group, to the Planning Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 4.3** Under the provisions of the above Act, neither the single UKIP Member nor the single non-aligned independent members (of which the Council now has two) constitute a “group” and are not, therefore, automatically entitled to any seats on Committees.
- 4.4** The resignation of Cllr Williams from the Conservative Group therefore has no significant impact on the overall political balance of the Council or the allocation of committee places between the Conservative and Labour Groups.

**5. Key issues and proposals**

- 5.1** The Conservative Group does not intend to voluntarily ‘give-up’ any of its places to Cllr Williams. However, as there is only one meeting of the Planning Committee and one meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee remaining before the elections in May, the Conservative Group does not intend to make new nominations to fill the vacant places for that period.

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	The Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Leader of the Conservative Group will be reduced slightly as a consequence of Cllr Williams resignation from the Group.
Legal	The proposals in this report are in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

**Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

<b>implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

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<b>List of background papers:</b>		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
none	-	-

**List of appendices**

None.

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