

Report Title: Council Committee Membership – Addendum Report	
Report to: Council	
Date: 10 th October 2022	For: Decision
Key Decision: No	Decision Planner Ref No: DP/2022/48
Report Presented by: Councillor Graham Butland, Leader of the Council	
Enquiries to: Kim Mayo, Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer	

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report is an addendum report to the Council Committee Membership report published with the Council agenda (agenda item 13). This report sets out further changes to the membership of the Council following a second resignation from the District Council, the resignation of Councillor Nick Unsworth.
- 1.2 This report set out the impact of the resignations on the political proportionality of the Council. There are no further changes to the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee and the Climate Change Working Group. The guidance and recommendations in respect of Performance Management Scrutiny Committee and Climate Change Working Group set out in sections 2, 5 and 6 of the principal report stands.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the addendum report and the vacancies.

3. Summary of Issues

- 3.1 In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is required to allocate seats on Council Committees and Sub-Committees to Political Groups on a politically proportionate basis.
- 3.2 Since the publication of the Council Committee Membership report which informs Council of the changes to membership of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee and the Climate Change Working Group following the resignation of Councillor Nick Unsworth from the Green and Independent Group (G&I Group), Councillor Unsworth has subsequently resigned from the District Council.

3.3 The Council now has two vacancies following the resignation of Councillors Dean Wallace and Nick Unsworth. The seats of the Council are broken down as follows:

- 33 - Conservative Group
- 8 - Green and Independent Group (G&I Group)
- 4 - Halstead Residents Association
- 2 - Labour Group
- 2 - vacancies

4. Political balance requirements

4.1 The allocation of seats on its Council Committees must be in the same proportion as the number of Members of the Group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole. Accordingly, the Council is required to consider whether, as the result of the change in political membership, there is a material change to its committee membership.

4.2 The Council has a duty when allocating or reviewing the allocation of seats on Committees to give effect so far as is reasonably practicable to the following four principles:-

- (a) all the seats are not allocated to the same political group;
- (b) the majority of the seats go to the political group in the majority on the full Council;
- (c) subject to the above two principles, the total number of seats on the ordinary Committees of the Authority are allocated to each Political Group in the same proportion as the Group's representation on the full Council; and
- (d) subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each Committee are allocated to each political group in the same proportion as the Group's representation on the Council.

4.3 A further review of the political proportions has been carried out to reflect the changes caused by the two resignation and the political balance is set out below:

- Conservative Group – 33 Seats (70.2%)
- Green and Independent Group – 8 Seats (17%)
- Halstead Residents Association – 4 Seats (8.5%)
- Labour Group – 2 Seats (4.3%)

4.4 The recalculation of the political proportions following the resignations do not change the number of Committee seats allocated to each of the Political Groups.