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Chairman and Members of the Council

Your contact: Rebecca Dobson
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Date: 24 July 2019

cc. All other recipients of the Council agenda

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL - 24 JULY 2019 – SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA NO.3

Please find attached the following reports which were not available at the time of the dispatch of the agenda for the above meeting:

4. Minutes (Pages 3 - 12)

To receive a report on political balance as a "matter arising" from the Minutes.

6. Petitions (Pages 13 - 14)

To receive two petitions.

14. Motion on Notice (Pages 15 - 16)

To receive a proposed amendment to the Motion on Notice.

Please download this supplementary agenda on your device using ModGov prior to the meeting this evening.

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Dobson
Democratic Services Manager

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MEETING : COUNCIL
VENUE : COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
DATE : WEDNESDAY 24 JULY 2019
TIME : 7.00 PM

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 24 JULY 2019

REPORT BY RICHARD CASSIDY

REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

A change of political groups has been notified to the Council. Legislation requires that in such circumstances, a review of political balance must take place and allocations of committee seats must be agreed by the Council.

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL that:</u>	
(A)	The political balance of the Council be noted; and
(B)	The allocation of seats on the Council's committees be confirmed as set out at Essential Reference Paper B.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Council reviewed the representation of political groups at its Annual meeting on 15 May 2019. Subsequently, notification of a change to a political group has been received. A further review must therefore be carried out at the next available ordinary meeting of the Council. The next meeting of the Council will not take place until 23 October 2019, so in the interests of ensuring clarity of membership of the Council's

Committees, it is preferable that the review be considered as a late item on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

2.0 Report

2.1 Where Members of a Council are divided into political groups, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a duty on the Council to review the allocation between those groups of seats on its scrutiny committees, regulatory committees and joint committees according to rules of political balance under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The aim is to ensure the political composition of those committees reflects the political representation of the Council.

2.2 Notification has been received from the Members of the Green and Labour political parties that they will, with immediate effect, need to cease to operate as the Green/Labour Group on the Council and will instead form two separate Groups of two Members each. A change to the political groups within the Council, occurring later than one month after the last review, necessitates a review of the allocation of committee places in proportion to the groups' representation on the Council.

2.3 Taking account of the change of groups as notified results in a political balance percentage of representation for each relevant group as set out in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

2.4 The Leaders of the Groups have been consulted as to the proposed distribution of seats to reflect political balance in accordance with the overall proportion which each Group represents. The proposed allocation of seats on Committees is set out for approval by the Council, in accordance with the wishes of the Group Leaders.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives:	The proposals set out in this report will support all of the Council's corporate objectives.
Consultation:	The appropriate consultation with the political group leaders has taken place.
Legal:	The proposals set out in this report accord with the statutory provisions for reviewing the Council's political balance.
Financial:	None
Human Resource:	None
Risk Management:	The Council needs to establish a robust and clear decision-making structure to enable it to function effectively and make decisions in an expeditious manner which is accountable to the electorate.
Health and wellbeing-issues and impacts	None
Equality, diversity and human rights considerations, and whether	No

Equality Impact Assessment required:	
Environmental Sustainability	None

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'B'

Allocation of committee seats

	Current - allocated across three groups (Con, Liberal Democrat & Green/Labour)			Proposed - allocated across four groups (Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green & Labour)			
Number of Members	Con	LD	G/L	Con	LD	G	Lab
	40	6	4	40	6	2	2
Proportion of Council (%)	80	12	8	80	12	4	4
Total number of seats available across all committees (i.e. those which are subject to proportionality rules) - 63	50	8	5	50	8	3 or 2	2 or 3

	Current - allocated across three groups (Con, Liberal Democrat & Green/Labour)			Proposed - allocated across four groups (Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green & Labour)			
Number of	Con	LD	G/L	Con	LD	G	Lab

	Current - allocated across three groups (Con, Liberal Democrat & Green/Labour)			Proposed - allocated across four groups (Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green & Labour)			
Members	40	6	4	40	6	2	2
Proportion of Council (%)	80	12	8	80	12	4	4
Group allocation of total number of committee seats <i>(individual committees allocations are set out below)</i>	50	8	5	50	8	3	2
Overview & Scrutiny	10	2	2	10	2	1	1
Performance, Audit & Governance Oversight	6	1	0	6	1	0	0
Development Management	9	1	2	9	1	1	1
Licensing	9	2	1	9	2	1	0
Human Resources	6	1	0	6	1	0	0
Chief Officer Recruitment	4	1	0	4	1	0	0
Revenues & Benefits Joint Cttee	3	0	0	3	0	0	0

	Current - allocated across three groups (Con, Liberal Democrat & Green/Labour)			Proposed - allocated across four groups (Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green & Labour)			
CCTV Joint Cttee	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
*A later item on the agenda proposes a Financial Sustainability Committee . The proposed review of political balance taking into account this new committee would be as set out here.	8	1	1	8	1	0	1
TOTAL SEATS ALLOCATED on basis that Financial Sustainability Committee is established	58	9	6	58	9	3	3

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ITEM 6 – PETITIONS

Since publication of the agenda for the meeting, two petitions have been submitted to the Council.

Petition 1

A petition has been submitted by Rebecca Eddington on behalf of Climate Change for Aston and surrounding villages, signed by a number of residents and business owners in the District. The petition calls on the Council to:

“declare a climate emergency and as a minimum :

1. Commits to ensuring all new developments achieve net zero carbon with immediate effect
2. Improves air quality by investing in infrastructure that will radically reduce car usage in towns and rural areas by increasing residents’ access to foot, bike and local transport options
3. Increases residents’ access to renewables, for example by helping people to purchase solar PV through a group-buy initiative such as Solartogether.”

Petition 2

A petition has been submitted by Ann Forbes MBE on behalf of Bishop's Stortford Climate Group, signed by a number of residents of the District. The petition calls on the Council to:

“declare a climate emergency and to improve air quality by investing in infrastructure that will radically reduce car usage in town centres and air pollution hot spots and improving access to electric vehicle charging across the district; and to increase residents’ access to renewables, for example by helping people to purchase solar PV through a group buy initiative.”

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Item 14 - AMENDMENT TO MOTION ON NOTICE

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR G MCANDREW

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR D ANDREWS

CLIMATE ~~EMERGENCY~~ CHANGE MOTION

Man-made climate change is the biggest threat that humanity faces. In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report stated that we have just 12 years to act on climate change if global temperatures rises are to be kept within the recommended 1.5 degrees celsius.

All governments whether national, regional or local have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate change and need to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible. East Herts District Council has a pivotal role to play in tackling climate change and enabling sustainable living.

We recognise the importance of tackling climate change both in the terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to minimise future global climate change and planning for the unavoidable local impacts of climate change.

Therefore, East Herts District Council will :-

1) Join with other Councils in recognising and declaring ~~a Climate Emergency,~~ formally the necessity to do everything within the authority's power to reduce its impact on the climate and moreover ~~do~~
2) ~~Pledge to~~ do everything ~~within the Council's power~~ we can ~~to~~ in supporting ~~support~~ the whole of East Herts District to become carbon neutral by 2030,

~~32)~~ Develop an ambitious sustainability strategy for reducing the Council's own emissions, with an objective that the Council becomes carbon neutral by 2030,

~~4) Include in all planning 3)~~ Work with national and regional partners to ensure that where at all possible we support climate friendly planning and building control regulations and seek where possible to include the very best measures into the Local Plan ~~measures to cut~~ minimise ~~carbon emissions and reduce the~~ any negative impact on the environment,

~~54)~~ Call on National Government for more powers and resources to make this pledge possible, and ask the Council's Leader to write to the Secretary of state for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to this effect,

~~65)~~ Continue to work with partners across the District, County and Region to deliver this new goal, through all relevant strategies and plans,

~~76)~~ Take account of climate impacts within existing decision-making processes,

~~87)~~ Set up an Environmental and Climate ~~Emergency~~ Forum, in line with the ~~recommendation~~ recommendations ~~D16~~ from the Task and Finish Group which ~~was~~ were approved by this Council on 5th March, 2019,

~~98) Reconvene the Climate Change task and finish Group, and require it~~ The Environmental Forum to monitor progress regularly ~~delivering the pledge~~, and to report back,

~~109)~~ Commit to making available ~~Dedicate enough staff and budget to achieve these aims, including~~ the most appropriate training ~~for to~~ members and officers to promote carbon neutral policies ~~and in order to achieve these aims.~~