

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 23 OCTOBER 2019

REPORT BY HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

POLITICAL BALANCE – SUBSTITUTE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- Following the review of political balance approved at the last scheduled Council meeting, Council is requested to approve allocation of the number of Substitute Members to Committees for the political groups which changed in July 2019.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:</u></b>	
<b>(A)</b>	<b>To approve the allocation of the number of Substitute Members to the Labour and Green Groups on the Committees referred to in Essential Reference Paper B; and</b>
<b>(B)</b>	<b>That the Members of the Labour and Green Groups, as nominated by their respective Group Leaders to be Substitute Members for such Committees, and as set out in the Reference Paper, be noted.</b>

1.0 Background

1.1 On 24 July 2019, the Council reviewed the representation of political groups, following notification of new political groups

by the Members of the Green and Labour political parties. The allocation of seats on the Council's committees was agreed, but did not include the allocation of the number of Substitute Members for the new Groups which were formed.

## 2.0 Report

2.1 Where Members of a Council are divided into political groups, the Local Government and Housing Act 1988 places a duty on the Council to review the allocation of seats on its committees. This duty applies where there is a change to the political groups on the Council. The allocation of committee places and Substitute Members of the Council's Committees took place at its annual meeting on 15 May 2019. Following the annual meeting, notification of a change of political groups was received from the Members of the Green and Labour groups that they would need to cease to operate as the Green/Labour Group. Accordingly, the Council again reviewed its political balance and approved, at its meeting on 24 July 2019, the allocation of seats arising from this change.

2.2 The allocation of Substitute Members appointed to committees was omitted from that subsequent review. The [Constitution](#) provides for the allocation of up to 6 named substitutes per political group to committees, for groups having 10 or more Members, and up to 3 named substitutes per political group having fewer than 10 members. The Green and Labour Group Leaders have confirmed their wish to nominate to these committees the Members whose names are highlighted in Essential Reference Paper B. The Leaders of all political groups on the Council have been consulted as to the proposed allocation of Substitute Members on these Committees.

## 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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