

**Meeting:** COUNCIL

**Date of Meeting:** 9 July 2009

**Title of Report:** MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2009/10

**Report of:** Mrs. C.J. Elwood  
Legal Director

**Contact Officer:** Steve Pearce  
Head of Committee  
and Member Services  
(Telephone No.  
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This report contains	Yes	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> Information/		√
<b>EXEMPT</b> information by virtue of paragraph(s).....of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (If information <u>is</u> marked exempt, the Public Interest Test must be applied and favour the exclusion of the information from the press and public).		√
Is the decision on this report <b>DELEGATED?</b>	√	

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

To advise the Council that Councillor Larkin has given formal notice of his membership of the Liberal Democrat Group with effect from 29 May 2009, which has changed the Political Balance on the Council and to inform the Council that the change in proportionality affects the entitlement to formal Committee Places. The Political Groups on the Council were notified of the change to their entitlement and have been asked to report orally at the meeting, the changes that they wish to make to their Committee Places.

## **2.0 Recommendation(s)**

- (1) That the Political Groups indicated below report orally on the changes to the following Committees in order to effect the revision to the allocation of Committee Places resulting from the change in proportionality.
  - Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) - Liberal Democrat Group to nominate one Member: Labour Group to lose one Member;
  - Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) - Conservative Group to nominate one Member: - Labour Group to lose one Member;
- (2) That Political Groups report orally on any other changes that they wish to make to their allocation of Committee Places and appointments on Outside Bodies; and

- (3) That the Council endorse the changes reported orally by Political Groups on the Council in accordance with their revised allocation of Committee Places and appointments on Outside Bodies.

### **Corporate Objective Monitoring**

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1.	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2.	Creating Safe Communities		√	
3.	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
4.	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5.	Environmental Sustainability		√	
6.	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
7.	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		√	
8.	Children and Young People		√	

### **Financial Implications**

	<b>2006/ 2007 £</b>	<b>2007/ 2008 £</b>	<b>2008/ 2009 £</b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

### **Departments consulted in the preparation of this Report**

None

### **List of background papers relied upon in the preparation of this Report**

Calculation of Committee Places 2009/10

### **3.0 Background**

3.1 Councillor Larkin has given notice that he no longer wishes to be a Member of the Labour Group and he formally became a Member of the Liberal Democrat Group from 29 May 2009. This has changed the balance on the Council and following a request from Councillor Robertson, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, a recalculation of the entitlement to formal Committee Places has been undertaken, which results in the Labour Group having to lose two Committee Places, one to the Liberal Democrat Group and one to the Conservative Group.

3.2 The change in proportionality is as follows:

POLITICAL GROUP	NUMBER OF SEATS ON COUNCIL	ENTITLEMENT TO COMMITTEE PLACES	
		FROM JULY 09	PRIOR TO JULY 09
Liberal Dem	28	34 places (33.94*) 42.42%	33 places (32.73*) 40.91%
Labour	21	25 places (25.45*) 31.82%	27 places (26.67*) 33.33%
Conservative	17	21 places (20.61*) 25.76%	20 places (20.61*) 25.76%
TOTAL	66	80	80

\*rounded up or down to give actual entitlement to committee places shown.

3.3 The impact on the change in proportionality is that the Labour Group will lose two Committee places and the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Groups will each gain one Committee place.

3.4 The current allocation of seats on Committees is as follows:

COMMITTEE	POSITIONS AVAILABLE	POSITIONS ALLOCATED TO GROUPS		
		Lib Dem.	Lab.	Con.
Audit and Governance	10	5	3	2
Licensing and Regulatory	15	6	5	4
Planning	15	6	5	4
O. & S. (Children's Services)	10	4	4	2
O. & S. (Health and Social Care)	10	4	3	3
O. & S. (Performance and Corporate Services)	10	4	4	2
O. & S. (Regeneration and Environmental)	10	4	3	3
TOTAL	80	33	27	20

3.5 The Political Groups on the Council have been advised of their revised entitlement to Committee Places and the effect is that the following changes to the Committees indicated need to be made:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services)- Liberal Democrat Group to nominate one Member: Labour Group to lose one Member;
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Performance and Corporate Services) - Conservative Group to nominate one Member: - Labour Group to lose one Member;

3.6 Political Groups have been asked to report orally on the changes that they wish to make to remain within their entitlement to Committee Places. Political Groups may also want to report orally on other changes which they wish to make within their allocations of Committee Places and appointments on Outside Bodies.