

**REPORT TO A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020****COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To consider a request from the Labour Group to adjust Membership of the Staffing Committee.

**2. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ALLOCATIONS**

- 2.1 It is customary for allocations of Committee seats to be allocated at the Annual Meeting of the Council each year. For Leamington Spa Town Council, Committee seats are allocated according to the prevailing political balance on the Council, with seats presently allocated as follows:-

<b>Political Group</b>	<b>No seats (%)</b>
Liberal Democrat	7 seats (43.75%)
Green	5 seats (31.25 %)
Labour	4 seats (25%)

- 2.2 Following the election in May 2019, the respective allocations of seats were agreed as follows:-

<b>Committee</b>	<b>No of Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Green</b>
<b>Policy and Resources</b>	9	2	4	3
<b>Cultural and Community</b>	8	2	3	3
<b>Planning</b>	8	2	4	2
<b>Urgent Matters</b>	5	1	2	2
<b>Allotments Sub Committee</b>	4	1	2	1
<b>Staffing</b>	3	1	1	1
<b>Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</b>	4	1	2	1
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Percentage allocation (actual)</b>		<b>24.4</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>31.7</b>
<b>Percentage entitlement</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>43.75</b>	<b>31.25</b>

- 2.3 It should be emphasised that the allocation of seats according to the above formula is a matter of choice for Parish and Town Councils. The Council, should it wish to adopt an alternative system, may do so.
- 2.4 The Council's Standing Orders also state that :-

Persons other than Members of the Council may be appointed to any Committee (other than a Committee that regulates and controls the finances of the Council; and  
The membership of a Committee may at any time be altered.

### **3. REASON FOR REVIEW**

3.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on May, 2020, it was agreed that the Membership of the Staffing Committee is increased by the addition of one additional member (Cllr McAllister). This has the following effect on the balance of Committee seats across the Council:-

		<b>Labour</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Green</b>
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Percentage allocation (actual)</b>		<b>23.8</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>30.9</b>
<b>Percentage entitlement</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>43.75</b>	<b>31.25</b>

3.2 It can be seen that the allocation of one additional seat to the Liberal Democrat Group has the effect of over representing that Group and detrimentally affecting the balance of seats allocated to the other two Groups. This can be addressed, as far as is possible, by increasing the number of seats allocated to the other Groups as follows:-

		<b>Labour</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Green</b>
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Percentage allocation (actual)</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>31.8</b>
<b>Percentage entitlement</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>43.75</b>	<b>31.25</b>

3.3 The above allocation produces a more equitable distribution of seats. It is suggested that the two additional seats are allocated to the smaller Committees such as Allotments, Staffing and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, all of which currently consist of 4 Members.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 The Current balance of seats between the respective political groups results in an over representation of one group compared to the others. The addition of an additional 2 Committee seats, allocated in the proportion of one seat to the Labour Group and one to the Green Group overcomes this imbalance.

4.2 The instructions of the Council are invited.