

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Council
18 September 2018

From: Chief Executive

Subject: **APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES**

All Wards
Scrutiny Committee

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 Following the resignation of Councillor Mrs Janet Watson there is a vacancy in the Thirsk Ward. A by-election is due to take place on Thursday, 4 October 2018. The purpose of this report is to consider appointing Members to fill the vacancies on a number of Committees as a result of this resignation.

2.0 ALLOCATION OF SEATS:

2.1 Committees must be constituted on the basis of available seats being allocated in line with the Council's overall political proportionality (so far as is "reasonably practicable") unless some other basis of allocation has been approved without any Member voting against it.

2.2 There is now a vacancy on each of the following Committees:-

- Audit, Governance and Standards Committee;
- Licensing Committee;
- Standards Hearings Panels Pool;
- Thirsk and Sowerby Swimming Baths Charity.

2.3 In accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 "each Licensing Authority must establish a licensing committee consisting of at least ten, but not more than fifteen, members of the authority." Following Councillor Janet Watson's resignation there are now only nine members sitting on the Licensing Committee. In order to comply with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003, therefore, a member must be appointed to the vacancy on the Licensing Committee.

2.4 The Conservative Group has been consulted regarding the appointment of a member to the Licensing Committee and the Leader will announce this appointment at the meeting.

2.5 With regard to the remaining vacancies, the Conservative Group has indicated that it does not wish to fill these until after the by-election in October.

3.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

3.1 The Council is obliged to comply with the rules on proportionality and the wishes of Groups in allocating seats on Committees. It is a legal requirement that the Licensing Committee has at least 10 members.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 There are no Financial Implications associated with this report.

5.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered. However, there are no issues associated with this report.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

6.1 It is recommended that:-

- (1) a Councillor nominated by the Conservative Group be appointed as a member of Licensing Committee; and
- (2) consideration be given to appointing a member to the vacancies on the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee; the Standards Hearings Panel Pool and the Thirsk and Sowerby Swimming Baths Charity following the by-election in October 2018.

DR JUSTIN IVES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background papers: Notification of membership of political groups.

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