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REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL AND ON COMMITTEES

Regulation 17 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 requires the Council to review the allocation of seats to political groups where proper notice has been given of a member joining a political group. Councillor Bright has given proper notice of his resignation from the Liberal Democrat Group and his wish to join the Conservative Group. His membership of the Conservative Group has been accepted by the Leader of that Group. A review of the allocation of seats is therefore necessary.

The membership of each Group represented on the Council is now -

Conservative	32
Liberal Democrat	23
Independent	3

The number of Committee places allocated to each Group at present is -

Conservative	68
Liberal Democrat	48
Independent	4

The consequence of the loss of one member to the Liberal Democrat Group is that -

- (i) The Liberal Democrat Group must surrender to the Independent Group one Committee place from its total allocation of 48 seats;
- (ii) Cllr Bright ceases to be a member of the Committees on which he currently serves as a Liberal Democrat Group member - the Direct Services Contracts and the Planning and Transportation Committees. These places (subject to (i) above), fall to be filled by the Liberal Democrat Group.

The wishes of the Liberal Democrat and the Independent Groups regarding the Committee place to be allocated to the Independent Group, and the consequential amendments to Committee membership, will be reported at the meeting.

The Conservative Group wishes Cllr Russell to cease to be a member of the Planning & Transportation Committee and for Cllr Bright to take his place.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the Council agrees to the allocation of a Committee place on the Programme Committee to be reported at the meeting;
- (b) That consequential changes to the membership of that Committee, as nominated by the Liberal Democrat and Independent Groups at the meeting, be agreed;
- (c) That Cllr Russell (Conservative) cease to be a member of the Planning and Transportation Committee and that Cllr Bright (Conservative) be appointed to that Committee in his place.

Further Information:

Rosemary Rutins
Democratic Services Manager
Tel: (023) 805381
Email: rosemary.rutins@nfdc.gov.uk