

14th December, 2017



Doncaster Council

**To the Chair and Members of the
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEMBERSHIP – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members that Councillor Mark Houlbrook will replace Councillor Dave Shaw, as a Labour Group representative on the Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Committee:
 1. Note that Councillor Mark Houlbrook has been appointed to replace Councillor Dave Shaw as a Labour Group representative on the Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel; and
 2. Appoint Mark Houlbrook to the Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. The Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance. By appointing to Committees in line with recommendations within this report, the Council satisfies its legal requirements for appointments to Committees.

BACKGROUND

4. As Members will be aware, the appointment of the memberships and Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committee and Sub-Committees of the Council, was determined at the Annual Council Meeting on Friday 19th May, 2017.
5. The Labour Group has subsequently requested that the membership be amended and that Councillor Dave Shaw be replaced on the Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel by Councillor Mark Houlbrook. This change in membership has been requested by the relevant Political Group and the Committee is therefore asked to note and approve this change of membership.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

6. There is a duty to comply with the requirements of Sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, in the allocation of seats to Political Groups to ensure political balance. A request has been made by the Labour Group to replace Councillor Dave Shaw with Councillor Mark Houlbrook. Therefore, no other options are considered appropriate.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

7. Ensuring the membership of the Council's Committee's is in place to effectively discharge its responsibilities will ensure that the Council is able to contribute to the delivery of all of the Council's Key Priorities. In particular, these arrangements will assist the council in working with our partners to provide strong leadership and governance.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

8. There are no risks identified or assumptions relevant to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended) set out the duties of the Local Authority and the allocation of seats to political groups on Committees to ensure political balance.
10. The cumulative effect of these duties is to require "proportionality" across the formal activities of the Authority, representing the overall political composition of the Authority, so that there can for example, be no one party Committees so far as they are constituted as formal Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council.
11. The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, provide the mechanism by which the wishes of Political Groups are to be ascertained.
12. This is to comply with a request made by the Labour Group to replace Councillor Dave Shaw with Councillor Mark Houlbrook. Therefore, no other options are considered appropriate.
13. Exceptions to these requirements of political balance may be made where arrangements are approved by the Council without any Member of the Council or a Committee, voting against them.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no technology implications associated with this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

16. This report provides a change in Membership to the Scrutiny Panel and there are no significant equality implications associated with the report. Within its programme of work Overview and Scrutiny gives due consideration to the extent to which the Council has complied with its Public Equality Duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

CONSULTATION

17. The Labour Group has been consulted and provided a nomination to serve on the Panel as outlined within this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. Report to Local Government And Housing Act 1989 - Review of the Allocation of Seats on Committees and Sub-Committees – Council – 19th May, 2017

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