# Agenda Item 21

# **Committee: Council**

# Date: 17 November 2021

# Subject: Changes to Membership of Committees and related matters

Lead officer: Hannah Doody, Chief Executive

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democracy Services Manager

Democratic Services 020 8545 3357 - democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

#### **Recommendations:**

That the Council:

- 1. Notes and endorses the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Council.
- 2. Notes and endorses the appointment of councillors to the two substitute vacancies on the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. This report asks Council to note and endorse the changes made to committee memberships under delegated authority since the publication of the agenda for the last ordinary Council meeting on 15 September 2021.

## 2 DETAILS

2.1. The following membership changes have been made by the Chief Executive under their delegated authority in accordance with section 1.4 of part 3F of the Constitution:

2		2	
2	•	_	•

Committee	Member resigning	Replaced by	Date
Planning Applications Committee	Cllr Ben Butler – substitute	Cllr John Dehaney – substitute	21 October 2021
Standards and General Purposes Committee	Cllr Mary Curtin	Cllr Joan Henry	3 November 2021

2.3 On 20 October 2021, Councillor Joan Henry and Councillor Nick Draper were appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission as substitutes, posts which were previously vacant.

# 3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

# 4 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

#### 5 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS Page 227

- 5.1. The information regarding membership changes in this report complies with legal and statutory requirements. Council is required to accept nominations made by political groups.
- 5.2. The Housing and Local Government Act 1989 contains provisions relating to the political balance on committees, the duty to allocate seats to political groups and the duty to give effect to allocations.
- 5.3. The Council has a statutory duty to review the representations of different political groups on the Council in order to ensure that a political balance is secured on council committees so as to reflect the overall political composition of the council.
- 5.4. Once the review has been completed there is a second statutory duty to make a determination as to political representation. The requirement to allocate seats must be made in accordance with the following statutory principles:

a) All of the seats are not to be allocated to the same political group.

b) The majority of the seats must be allocated to the political group with a majority on the Council.

c) Subject to the two principles listed above, the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees of the Council allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to that on full Council.

d) Subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary committee of the Council allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to their proportion on the full Council.

#### 6 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

# 7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## 8 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1. N/A

#### 9 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

9.1 None.

## 10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Documents from the authorised officer confirming approval of the membership changes agreed under delegated authority.