

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
28TH JULY 2010

Corporate Governance

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	-
CORPORATE PLAN AIM:	A Well Run and Responsive Council
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor J-P Campion
DIRECTOR:	Director of Legal and Corporate Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Caroline.newlands@wyreforestdc.gov.uk Ext. 2738
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 – Revised Political Balance

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the revised political balance of the Council as set out in Appendix 1 of this report and to agree changes to the Appraisal Panel for the Chief Executive as set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

2. RECOMMENDATION**2.1 The Council is asked to DECIDE that:**

The revised political balance of the Council as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be agreed.

- 2.2 The membership of the Appraisal Panel for the Chief Executive be amended to include the Leaders of the two largest opposition groups.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council is required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to agree the political balance of its committees.
- 3.2 At the Council's meeting on 24th February 2010 an Appraisal Panel was agreed to review the Chief Executive's performance. However, since that time there has been a significant change in the relative size of the opposition groups and it has been necessary to change the terms of reference to reflect this.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The political balance of the Council has changed since the last meeting on 19th May 2010 owing to Councillor H J Martin no longer being a member of the Independent Community and Health Concern Group and becoming an Independent Member.
- 4.2 The proposal to change the Chief Executive's Appraisal Panel membership helps to ensure a greater degree of continuity in the membership of the panel.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the changes to the political balance and the membership of the Chief Executive's Appraisal Panel.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The changes to the political balance of the Council accord with the provision of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken and it is considered that there are no discernable impacts on the six equality strands.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 There are no significant risk management issues associated with the proposed changes to the political balance of the Council's committees or the change to the Appraisal Panel of the Chief Executive.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The change in political balance is considered to be acceptable and in line with legislative requirements and the changes to the Appraisal Panel will help to ensure a greater degree of continuity in the membership of the panel.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Corporate Management Team
10.2 Leader of the Council

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Local Government and Housing Act 1989
11.2 Report to Council Political Management Structure 2010/2011 and Corporate Governance 19th May 2010

		Conservative		IndeCommunity		Lib		Labour		Lib/de m		Non-align ned		Total	
No. of Cllrs.			23		7		5		3		2		2		42
Percentage			54.76%		16.67%		11.90%		7.14%		4.76%		4.76%		100.00%
Executive Cttees		Membership													
Appts & Appeals	7	4	3.83	1	1.17	1	0.83	1	0.50	0	0.33	0	0.00		7
Audit cttee	9	5	4.93	2	1.50	1	1.07	1	0.64	0	0.43	0	0.00		9
Scrutiny															
Corporate Resources	14	8	7.67	2	2.33	2	1.67	1	1.00	1	0.67	0	0.00		14
Community & Regen	14	8	7.67	2	2.33	2	1.67	1	1.00	1	0.67	0	0.00		14
Regulatory															
Planning	12	7	6.57	2	2.00	1	1.43	1	0.86	1	0.57	0	0.00		12
Lic & Env	10	5	5.48	2	1.67	1	1.19	1	0.71	1	0.48	0	0.00		10
Total	66	37	36.14	11	11.00	8	7.86	6	4.71	4	3.14	0	0.00		66
Percentage		56.06%		16.67%		12.12%		9.09%		6.06%		0.00%			100.00%
Difference between % No. of Cllrs. And % Number of Seats		1.30%		0.00%		0.22%		1.95%		1.30%					
Eth&Stan															
9 Councillors	9	2		2		2		1		2					9
4 Independent, 2 Parish Cllrs, 1 Town Cllr															
Notes															
1. Each member is required to notify the Proper Officer which political group, if any, he or she wishes to be identified with. A group comprises of two or more members.															
2. Each Group Secretary is required to notify the Proper Officer which members of his or her groups he/she wishes to sit on each relevant committee or sub-committee.															
3. The allocation of seats required the rounding up or down of calculated figures to give whole numbers.															
4. Single party representatives and independent members (who do not form part of a political group) are not legally entitled to seats on committees to which the rules of proportionality apply.															