

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 17 December 2009

agenda item number **9**

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To report that Councillor Victor Bobo is no longer a member of the Nottinghamshire Independent Group and has joined the Conservative Group and to consider the effect of this on the allocation of seats on Committees.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. I have been notified that Councillor Victor Bobo is no longer a member of the Nottinghamshire Independent Group and has subsequently joined the Conservative Group.
3. It is therefore necessary to review the political balance of the Council since that established following the Council elections in June 2009. The situation following the 2009 elections is set out in appendix A to this report. Appendix B sets out the revised figures at this moment in time. The effect is different depending on the number of seats on a particular Committee. Appendix C to the report sets out the constitution of Committees which are currently established and the number of seats allocated to the Groups based on the situation reported to the Annual Meeting of the Council in June 2009.
4. From the information presented in the appendices, Members' attention is drawn to the requirement to reconstitute the current Committees in terms of the membership in accordance with the figures set out in appendix B.

#### **Statutory and Policy Information**

5. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service and where such implications are material they have been described in the text of the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

6. It is recommended that consideration be given to the allocation of seats to the Committees having regard to the current political balance of the Council.

**Mick Burrows**  
**Chief Executive**

### **Service Director (Finance) Comments (MB 08/12/09)**

There are no specific financial implications arising from the report.

### **Legal Services Comments (SLB 08/12/2009)**

Article 4 of the Council's Constitution states that the function of deciding the composition of Committees is reserved to Full Council. Full Council is therefore the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. By virtue of Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Council is under a duty to allocate seats to political groups in accordance with the principles of political balance.

### **Background Papers Available for Inspection**

Letter from Independent Group dated 30 November 2009  
Letter from Councillor Victor Bobo dated 6 December 2009  
Letter from Conservative Group dated 8 December 2009

### **Electoral Divisions Affected**

All

**APPENDIX A**

**OVERALL POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOLLOWING JUNE 2009 ELECTIONS**

	Number	%
Conservative	35	52.24
Labour	13	19.40
Independent	10	14.93
Liberal Democrat	9	13.43
	67	

**APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND BODIES WHERE POLITICAL  
BALANCE IS REQUIRED, HAVING REGARD TO THE ABOVE**

Number of places on a Committee	Cons	Labour	Independents	Lib Dems
3	1.57 (2)	0.58 (1)	0.45 (0)	0.40 (0)
4	2.09 (2)	0.78 (1)	0.60 (1)	0.54 (0)
5	2.61 (3)	0.97 (1)	0.75 (1)	0.67 (0)
6	3.13 (3)	1.16 (1)	0.90 (1)	0.81 (1)
7	3.66 (4)	1.36 (1)	1.04 (1)	0.94 (1)
8	4.18 (4)	1.55 (2)	1.19 (1)	1.07 (1)
9	4.70 (5)	1.75 (2)	1.34 (1)	1.21 (1)
10	5.22 (5)	1.94 (2)	1.49 (2)	1.34 (1)
11	5.75 (6)	2.13 (2)	1.64 (2)	1.48 (1)
12	6.27 (6)	2.33 (2)	1.79 (2)	1.61 (2)
13	6.79 (7)	2.52 (2)	1.94 (2)	1.75 (2)
14	7.31 (7)	2.72 (3)	2.09 (2)	1.88 (2)
15	7.84 (8)	2.91 (3)	2.24 (2)	2.01 (2)
16	8.36 (8)	3.10 (3)	2.39 (3)	2.15 (2)
17	8.88 (9)	3.30 (3)	2.54 (3)	2.28 (2)

**APPENDIX B**

**OVERALL POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
AT DECEMBER 2009**

	Number	%
Conservative	36	54.55
Labour	13	19.70
Liberal Democrat	9	13.64
Independent	8	12.12
	66	
Vacancy (Mansfield South)	1	

**APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND BODIES WHERE POLITICAL  
BALANCE IS REQUIRED, HAVING REGARD TO THE ABOVE**

Number of places on a Committee	Cons	Labour	Lib Dems	Independents
4	2.18 (2)	0.79 (1)	0.55 (1)	0.48 (0)
5	2.73 (3)	0.98 (1)	0.68 (1)	0.61 (0)
6	3.27 (3)	1.18 (1)	0.82 (1)	0.73 (1)
7	3.82 (4)	1.38 (1)	0.95 (1)	0.85 (1)
8	4.36 (4)	1.58 (2)	1.09 (1)	0.97 (1)
9	4.91 (5)	1.77 (2)	1.23 (1)	1.09 (1)
10	5.45 (6)	1.97 (2)	1.36 (1)	1.21 (1)
11	6.00 (6)	2.17 (2)	1.50 (2)	1.33 (1)
12	6.55 (7)	2.36 (2)	1.64 (2)	1.45 (1)
13	7.09 (7)	2.56 (2)	1.77 (2)	1.58 (2)
14	7.64 (7)	2.76 (3)	1.91 (2)	1.70 (2)
15	8.18 (8)	2.95 (3)	2.05 (2)	1.82 (2)
16	8.73 (9)	3.15 (3)	2.18 (2)	1.94 (2)
17	9.27 (9)	3.35 (4)	2.32 (2)	2.06 (2)

APPENDIX C

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS BY GROUP AS AT JUNE 2009

	Total	Cons	Lab	Indep	Lib/Dem
Administration	9	5	2	1	1
Appeals	11	6	2	2	1
Audit	11	6	2	2	1
Cabinet (Non-voting)		6	5	4	4
Pensions	9	5	2	1	1
Pensions Admin	9	5	2	1	1
Pensions Investment	9	5	2	1	1
Personnel	11	6	2	2	1
Planning & Licensing	11	6	2	2	1
Rights of Way	11	6	2	2	1
Selection	9	5	2	1	1
Standards	7	4	1	1	1
Overview	9	5	2	1	1
Education Standing	17	9	3	3	2
Health & Wellbeing Standing	17	9	3	3	2
Communities & Environment Standing	17	9	3	3	2
Partnerships Review Sub	6	3	1	1	1
Apprenticeships Sub	9	5	2	1	1
Newark NHS Review Group	7	4	1	1	1
Joint LAA Scrutiny	7	4	1	1	1
Joint Health Scrutiny	8	4	2	1	1
Joint Strategic Planning & Transport	4	2	1	1	0
Joint Committee – Appointments to Notts Police Authority	3	2	1	0	0
Outside bodies appointments to Fire Authority	12	6	2	2	2