

## Report to Council

Wednesday, 22 February 2023

By the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services

### INFORMATION REPORT



Not Exempt

## Changes to Cabinet, Committee and PDAG Memberships - February 2023

### Executive Summary

On 2 February 2023, Councillor Claire Vickers was elected as Leader of the Council. Subsequently, she appointed her Cabinet and instituted changes to the Cabinet portfolios.

The portfolios are as follows: (i) Economic Development, (ii) Environment & Rural Affairs, (iii) Finance & Assets, (iv) Horsham Town, (v) Housing & Communities, (vi) Leisure & Culture, (vii) Planning & Development, and (viii) Recycling & Waste.

The appointment of a new Cabinet has rendered unconstitutional the membership of some existing Committees and Policy Development Advisory Groups (PDAGs). This is because, for example, a Cabinet Member cannot be a member of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

In addition to these changes, one further Councillor has become an Independent Member and another has moved from the Liberal Democrat Group to the Conservative Group.

### Recommendations

That Council notes:

- a) Changes to the (i) Cabinet, (ii) Cabinet Portfolios (and functions and responsibilities thereunder) and (iii) Committee and PDAG memberships, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report and which have arisen as a result of the appointment of a new Cabinet by the Leader; and
- b) That the Monitoring Officer will revise the constitution to reflect the above changes pursuant to Article 13.3 (b) 3 of the Constitution.

### Reasons for Recommendations

- i) Article 7.1 (b) of the Constitution states that the Cabinet will consist of at least two but not more than nine Councillors appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader. In order to more effectively discharge the work of the Cabinet, the Leader has reconfigured the Cabinet portfolios.

- ii) To confirm to the Council the changes that have been made to the (i) Cabinet, (ii) Cabinet portfolios, and, (iii) Committees and PDAG membership.

## **Background Papers**

The Council's Constitution.

**Wards affected:** (All Wards);

**Contact:** Aisha Nottage, Democratic Services and Elections Manager.

## **Background Information**

### **1 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Council to note the changes which have been brought about by the appointment of a new Leader.

### **2 Relevant Council policy**

- 2.1 Article 7 and 8 of the Constitution.

### **3 Details**

- 3.1 Councillor Claire Vickers was appointed Leader on 2 February 2023.

- 3.2 Subsequently, Councillor Vickers appointed a new Cabinet and reconfigured some of the Cabinet portfolios. The portfolios remain the same save for the following: (i) the “Community Matters” and “Housing & Public Protection” portfolios have been merged to create “Housing & Communities”, (ii) the “Finance & Parking” portfolio has been renamed “Finance & Assets”, and, (iii) “Local Economy” has been renamed “Economic Development”. The functions and responsibilities for each are detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

- 3.3 The Cabinet members responsible for each portfolio are as follows:

- (i) Recycling and Waste – Councillor Philip Circus;
- (ii) Housing & Communities – Councillor Tricia Youtan;
- (iii) Finance & Assets – Councillor Paul Clarke;
- (iv) Economic Development – Councillor Richard Landeryou;
- (v) Environmental & Rural Affairs – Councillor Josh Potts;
- (vi) Horsham Town – Councillor Tony Hogben;
- (vii) Leisure & Culture – Councillor Roger Noel; and
- (viii) Planning & Development – Councillor Liz Kitchen.

- 3.4 Some existing Committees and PDAG memberships became consequently unconstitutional. This is because, for example, (i) Cabinet Members cannot sit on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and, (ii) the Licensing Committee was no longer politically balanced.

- 3.5 Since the Annual Council Meeting in May 2022, there have been a couple of changes in the political composition of the parties. The first being that Councillor Jonathan Chowen has become an independent Member and the second being that Councillor Alan Britten has left the Liberal Democrat Group and joined the Conservative Group. Therefore, the Conservatives held an additional seat on the Licensing Committee, making it politically unbalanced. As such, a change to the membership, as detailed in Appendix 2 has been made.

- 3.6 Article 8 of the Constitution allows for in-year changes to Committees when there is a resignation and subsequent vacancies to fill.

- 3.7 Accordingly, to ensure political balance and constitutional compliance, the Group Leaders, independent Members, and other party Members were consulted, as far

as possible and where relevant, regarding changes to the Committee and PDAG memberships as detailed in Appendix 2.

#### **4 Next Steps**

- 4.1 Members were notified of the Cabinet reshuffle on 3 February 2023. This report asks Council to note these changes and consequential changes to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Licensing Committee and a number of PDAGs.

#### **5 Views of the Policy Development Advisory Group and Outcome of Consultations**

- 5.1 The proposed changes have been discussed with and are supported by the Leader of the opposition and other parties.

#### **6 Other Courses of Action Considered but Rejected**

- 6.1 To leave the current memberships unchanged. This would have left some Committees/PDAGs with incorrect political balance and/or included memberships contrary to Articles 8.1 and 8.2 of the Council's constitution.

#### **7 Resource Consequences**

- 7.1 None.

#### **8 Legal Considerations and Implications**

- 8.1 The legal implications have been incorporated into this report. Otherwise, there are none.

#### **9 Risk Assessment**

- 9.1 There are no risks identified in relation to this proposal.

#### **10 Procurement implications**

- 10.1 None.

## **11. Equalities and Human Rights implications / Public Sector Equality Duty**

11.1 None.

## **12 Environmental Implications**

12.1 None.

## **13 Other Considerations**

13.1 None.