

## **BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Full Council**

**Thursday 9 January 2025**

### **Decision Report**

#### **Committee Membership**

#### **Recommendation**

**Council notes the potential change to Committee membership numbers, following the result of the Newsham by election, and any resulting action to take place.**

#### Ward

All

#### Risk Management

To ensure a balanced representation of Councillors on committees. There are no financial impacts to this report.

#### Objective

To promote good governance and ensure an effective and well-functioning democracy at all levels.

#### Report

The current methodology of determining the numbers, by Political group etc, on each of the Committees is based upon their total number of representatives over the 16 members of the Council, e.g. if a Political group had 12 representatives, then they would have 75% of the places available on the main committees. This does not mean necessarily having 75% on each committee, they may choose to have more membership on one committee than the others. Current practice is, as best as can be done, to have equal representation on each committee.

At the beginning of this current Council, for the main 3 committees there were 39 seats to fill. The split within the Council, at the time of the 2021 election, was 10 Labour, 4 Conservatives and 2 Liberal Democrats. This resulted in 24, 10 and 5, places respectively.

As a by election has been called in the Newsham ward, due to the resignation of one of the two Councillors, this may result in a different split for the committee seats available, as shown below:

Possible Result	Labour	Conservative	Lib. Dem	Reform UK	Total
Current position	24 (10 Councillors)	10 (4 Councillors)	5 (2 Councillors)		39
Conservative win	24 (10 Councillors)	10 (4 Councillors)	5 (2 Councillors)		39
Labour win	27 (11 Councillors)	7 (3 Councillors)	5 (2 Councillors)		39
Liberal Democrats win	25 (10 Councillors)	7 (3 Councillors)	7 (3 Councillors)		39
Reform UK win	24 (10 Councillors)	7 (3 Councillors)	5 (2 Councillors)	3 (1 Councillor)	39

Some of these figures have been rounded.

Following the election which falls on the same day as Full Council, there may, depending upon the result, and under current arrangements, be a need to change the membership of the Committees to maintain 13 on each.

Shown below is the breakdown of those Councillors for the 3 main committees and sub committees, for reference.

In the event of any changes required, the Town Clerk will liaise accordingly.

As far as planned meetings for the rest of the municipal year, there is one more meeting, after January Council, for each of the 3 main committees.

**Malcolm Wilkinson**  
**Town Clerk**  
**2 January 2025**

<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</b>	
W Taylor (Chair)	<b>Vacant</b>
A Cartie (Vice Chair)	C Jones
A Barrass	K Nisbet
D Carr	J R Potts
G Davey	M Robson
S Davey	S Stanger
B Erskine	
<b>ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</b>	
K Nisbet (Chair)	J Reid
A Barrass (Vice Chair)	M Richardson
A Cartie	M Robson
B Erskine	S Stanger
<b>Vacant</b>	W Taylor
C Jones	A Watson
J R Potts	
<b>GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>	
J R Potts (Chair)	C Jones
A Watson (Vice Chair)	M Robson
D Carr	J Reid
A Cartie	M Richardson
G Davey	S Stanger
S Davey	W Taylor
B Erskine	

<b>COMMUNITY FUNDING SUB COMMITTEE</b>	
W Taylor (Chair)	K Nisbet
A Cartie (Vice Chair)	J R Potts
A Barrass	J Reid
D Carr	M Richardson
C Jones	S Stanger
<b>COMPLAINTS &amp; GRIEVANCE SUB COMMITTEE</b>	
J R Potts (Chair)	S Davey
A Watson (Vice Chair)	B Erskine
D Carr	<b>Vacant</b>
A Cartie	J Reid
G Davey	W Taylor
<b>PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT SUB COMMITTEE</b>	
J R Potts (Chair)	B Erskine
A Cartie (Vice Chair)	C Jones
A Barrass	J Reid
G Davey	S Stanger
S Davey	W Taylor
<b>STAFF SUB COMMITTEE</b>	
J R Potts (Chair)	S Davey
A Watson (Vice-Chair)	<b>Vacant</b>
D Carr	C Jones
A Cartie	K Nisbet
G Davey	W Taylor

<b>PARTNERSHIP BOARD</b>	
K Nisbet (Chair)	J R Potts
A Cartie	S Stanger
D Carr	W Taylor
G Davey	
<b>EVENTS WORKING GROUP</b>	
W Taylor (Chair)	
A Cartie (Vice-Chair)	
All Councillors	
<b>PARTNERSHIP NEGOTIATION TEAM</b>	
Councillor K Nisbet	Councillor J R Potts
Councillor W Taylor	Peter Kemp

**NB – As previously agreed working groups are open to anyone who is interested**