

## **Council – 17th November 2014**

### **Formation of new political group**

#### **1. Summary of report**

To inform members that notification has been received by Councillor Smith that he wishes, together with Councillor C. Bott and Councillor P. Bott, to be treated as a group on the Council. The name of that group is the Independent/Socialist Group.

#### **2. Recommendations**

That the Council notes the contents of the report.

#### **3. Report detail**

##### **Formation of new political group**

- 3.1 I have been notified in writing by Councillor Smith, a member for the Blakenall ward that along with Councillors C. and P. Bott, members for Darlaston South Ward, that they wish to be treated as a group on the Council. The notice was received on 9 October 2014. The group is as follows:

##### **Independent/Socialist Group**

Group Leader:	Councillor Smith
Deputy Leader:	Councillor P. Bott Councillor C. Bott

- 3.2 The effect of the formation of this new political group is under Part IV of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 which refers to allocation of seats to political groups.
- 3.3 Members will be aware that the allocation of Committee places in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 regarding political balance is a complex process. In the final analysis it requires a compromise to be made between sets of calculations which, whilst they result in marginal differences may be significant to Committee representation of individual political groups. The required “balance” is to be achieved by the Council allocating seats on Committees to properly constituted political groups based on the size of each group in relation to the size of the Council and so far as is reasonably practicable, at the same time, to each group in the same proportion.

This exercise is usually carried out at the Council's Annual Meeting and votes are taken in Council where there are a greater number of members to seats available.

- 3.4 The Council is reminded that it could be open to legal challenge if it was seen not to have used its best endeavours to achieve so far as is reasonably practicable a position where the allocation of seats reflects as near as possible the political make-up of the Council.
- 3.5 At the present time there are three unallocated seats on Committees which have been offered to Councillor Smith as Leader of the Independent/Socialist group.

### **Background papers**

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended)

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Signed:

Chief Executive

Date: 7th November 2014