

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 June 2012**

**Report of the Director of Legal Services**

**POLITICAL BALANCE AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

**Purpose of the Report**

To inform Council of the formation of an 'Independent Group' and to propose a change to Improvement and Scrutiny Committee; People so as to ensure that the allocation of seats reflects the political balance of the Council as a whole.

**Information and Analysis**

The duty to allocate seats to political groups is contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Further provisions about political balance are contained in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

The duty to review the allocations arises when a political group is constituted, where this occurs more than one month after the last review.

Councillors Robin Baldry and David Stone have recently given notice of the formation of a new political group; 'The Independent Group'. It has been confirmed that Councillor Stone is to be the leader of the new group.

To maintain the correct political balance it is proposed that one of the current Labour seats on the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee; People is re-allocated to the new Independent Group. All other Committees can then remain as currently constituted with Councillor Stone retaining his seat on Resources and Councillor Baldry retaining his seat on Places; but now as members of the 'Independent Group'.

*The proposed changes are highlighted in bold type in the table below;*

Improvement and Scrutiny Committee; People

Size	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Independent Group
16	8	<b>5</b>	2	<b>1</b>

### **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

### **Background Papers**

File held within the Legal Services and Democratic Services Sections.

### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the proposed appointments are agreed.

**John McElvaney**  
**Director of Legal Services**