1. Summary
This report formally records the result of Councillor Palethorpe joining the Labour Group and seeks Council’s approval of the consequent number and Group proportionality of seats on each Committee and the consequential effect on Committee memberships.

2. Recommendations
1. That the result of Councillor Palethorpe joining the Labour Group be noted.
2. That Council approves the number of seats on each Committee as set in the report.
3. That the representation of the political groups be as set out in this report.
4. That the removal of Councillor Eldred from the membership of the Appointments and Appeals Committee and the removal of Councillor Hill from the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.
5. That Councillor Palethorpe be appointed to the Audit Committee.
6. That Councillor Beardsworth be appointed to the Appointments and Appeals Committee.

3. Report Background
3.1 The result of the local elections on 5 May 2011 was that 26 Conservative, 15 Labour and 4 Liberal Democrat Councillors were elected to the Council. As Councillor Palethorpe has now joined the Labour Group these figures now become 25 Conservative, 16 Labour and 4 Liberal Democrat.

3.2 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations, requires the Council, at its annual meeting, or as soon as practicable afterwards following any changes to its political makeup, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocation of seats (i.e., proportionality). The rights of the various political groups are specified in relevant regulations. Council last did this on 19 May 2010.

3.3 The following principles need to be applied in allocating Committee places:

   3.3.1 that not all seats on any Committee or Sub-Committee are allocated to the same political group;
3.3.2 that the majority of the seats on all Committees and Sub-Committees are allocated to the political group that has a majority of the Council’s membership or as otherwise reflects the make up of the Council;

3.3.3 that subject to 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 above the number of seats for all main Committees which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the main Committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council; and

3.3.4 subject to 3.3.3 the numbers of seats on the individual Committees and Sub-Committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of seats of that Committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to their membership of the Council.

3.3 There are 60 allocated Committee places which divides as 33 Conservative, 21 Labour and 5 Liberal Democrat.

3.4.1 The allocation of seats between the Committees is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Conservative</th>
<th>Labour</th>
<th>Lib Dem</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audit</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O&amp;S</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointments and Appeals</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Purposes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportionality would be:</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4.2 The effect of the change in proportionality is that the Conservatives loose two Committee places on the Appointments and Appeals and Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Labour Group gain a place on the Audit Committee and the Liberal Democrat Group gain a place on the Appointments and Appeals Committee. The Group Leaders have agreed this situation. The Labour Group will take up their place on the Audit Committee which will now become an eight member Committee. Overview and Scrutiny Committee will now be a fourteen member Committee. The Liberal Democrat Group will take up their place on the Appointments and Appeals Committee.

3.4.3 In order to reflect that they are now entitled to two fewer Committee places the Conservatives have removed Councillor Eldred from the Appointments and Appeals Committee and Councillor Hill from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3.4.4 The Labour Group propose that Councillor Palethorpe fill the place on Audit Committee and the Liberal Democrat Group propose that Councillor Beardsworth fill the place on the Appointments and Appeals Committee.

4. Implications (including financial implications)
4.1 Resources and Risk
None specifically arising from this report.

4.2 Legal
The Council has legal obligations under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocation of seats.

4.3 Other Implications
None specifically

5. Background Papers
None

Report Author and Title: F. McGown - Democratic Services Manager
Telephone and Email: 837101 - fmcgown@northampton.gov.uk