



NORWICH City Council

Committee name: Council

Committee date: 30/01/2024

Report title: **Appointment of the Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee**

Portfolio: Councillor Fulton-McAlister, cabinet member for regulatory services

Report from: Head of legal and procurement

Wards: All Wards

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Purpose

To appoint a Chair for the Licensing and Regulatory Committees

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Council appoints a Chair for the Licensing and Regulatory Committees

Policy framework

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report meets the Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city priority.

Report details

1. At the Council's AGM in May, Councillor Stutely was appointed Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees.
2. In November, Councillor Stutely left the Labour Group, and in doing so vacated his seats on Council committees. As he vacated his seat on the licensing and regulatory committees, he ceased to be Chair of the Committees.
3. When Council re-calculated the political balance of the Committees on 10 January, a seat on the Licensing and Regulatory Committees was allocated to the Independent Norwich Group. Councillor Davis, as leader of the Independent Norwich Group, has confirmed that Councillor Stutely is to take the Independent Norwich Group seat on the Licensing and Regulatory Committees.
4. The Monitoring Officer has sought further legal advice on the appointment of the Chair of the Committees given Councillor Stutely has resumed his role on the Committees. This has confirmed that since Councillor Stutely vacated his place on the Committees previously, he would have ceased to be chair at that point and therefore the Council will need to re-appoint to this position.

Consultation

5. Not applicable for this report

Implications

Financial and resources

6. There are no financial implications arising from this report

Legal

7. The constitution establishes that the appointment of the Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees is a function reserved to Council. As above, the Council has sought advice and has also reviewed relevant guidance, all of which indicates that the Chair must be a voting member of the Committee, and at the point Councillor Stutely vacated his seat, he ceased to be Chair. As a result, Council is required to appoint a new chair.

Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and diversity	None
Health, social and economic impact	
Crime and disorder	
Children and adults safeguarding	

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Environmental impact	

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Failure to appoint a Chair could lead to a lack of effective oversight and leadership of the Committees	The Committee meetings are not conducted effectively	If Council cannot agree on a Chair, then the Vice-Chair as previously appointed by Council would lead meetings.

Other options considered

8. Council could not appoint a Chair, however this is not good practice.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation


9. To ensure there is a Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees

Background papers: None

Appendices: None

Contact officer: Leah Mickleborough, Head of Legal and Procurement (Monitoring Officer)

Email address: leahmickleborough@norwich.gov.uk

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