

Agenda item: 

**Title of meeting:** City Council

**Date of meeting:** 12 December 2017

**Subject:** Review of Political Proportionality on Committees and Panels

**Report by:** Chief Executive

**Wards affected:** N/A

**Key decision:** No

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## **1. Purpose of report**

Following the recent change in Group strengths on the Council with Councillor Bird joining the Conservative Group and Councillor Godier becoming a non-aligned Independent Member, "The Independent Group" has ceased to exist and there is a consequent need under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to review the allocation of committee seats.

## **2. Recommendations**

### **2.1 That Council**

- (a) Determine the allocation of seats on committees and panels based on the information set out below, having regard to any agreement between the affected Group and Members**
- (b) Ratify consequent named membership changes proposed at the meeting.**

## **3. Background Information and implications**

As a result of these changes, the Group strengths and consequent seats on committees are as shown in the table overleaf (the figures in brackets indicate the position prior to the change)

### **Impact on Committee/Panel Places**

Whilst on a strict arithmetical basis, the Conservative Group's allocation would be 38, as the Group legally cannot have a majority of any Committees unless it has an overall majority of Members on the Council, it cannot take up its full allocation.

Therefore the Conservative Group's actual allocation increases by one to 37. The former Independent Group held three seats, all taken by Councillor Godier, so one of these seats goes to the Conservative Group and the other two seats go to Councillor Godier as a non-aligned member.

Councillor Godier is currently a member of both the Traffic Environment and Community Safety and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panels, plus the Licensing Committee

As the Education, Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Panel is the only Panel which the Conservative Group can gain a seat on without giving it a majority, it may be considered prudent to assign that seat to that Group, again having regard to any agreement between the affected Group and members.

No other Groups on the Council are affected by this change in Group strengths.

Consequently the total number of seats be divided as follows \* (subject to inserting the updated changes once approved.

Groups	1  No of Cllrs	2  Total No of Committee Seats	3  Licensing Committee (15 Members)	4  Planning Committee (10 Members)	5  7 committees and panels (see note) (6 Members each)	6  Scrutiny Management Panel (9 Members)
Conservative	21 (20)	37 (36)	7	5	21 (20)	4
Liberal Democrat	15	27	5	4	15	3
UKIP	2	4	1	1	1	1
Labour	2	4	1	0	2	1
Non-Aligned Independent PG	1 (0)	2 (3 as part of the former Ind Gp)	1	0	1 (2 as part of the former Ind Gp)	0
Non-Aligned Independent JF	1	2	0	0	2	0
	<b>42</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>9</b>

15 members	Licensing Committee
10 members	Planning Committee
7 x 6 member Committee/panels	Employment Committee / Governance & Audit & Standards Committee / Health Overview Scrutiny Panel / EYCP Scrutiny / EDCL Scrutiny / TECS Scrutiny / HSC Scrutiny.
9 members	Scrutiny Management Panel

4. **Legal Implications** - legal comments are embodied in the report

5. **Finance Comments** - none in relation to this report

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Signed by:

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

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Signed by: