

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: City Council

Date of meeting: 13 February 2018

Subject: Review of Political Proportionality on Committees and Panels

Report by: Chief Executive

Wards affected: N/A

Key decision: No

1. Purpose of report

Following the recent change in Group strengths on the Council with former Councillor Hastings resigning in December 2017 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 overleaf, having regard to any agreement between the affected Group and Members**
- (b) Ratify consequent named membership changes proposed at the meeting.**
- (c) Appoint Chair of Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel and Chair and Vice-Chair of Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel**

3. Background Information and implications

As a result of the Group strengths change and consequent seats on committees are as shown in Table 1 overleaf (the figures in brackets indicate the position prior to the change)

Impact on Committee/Panel Places

Before the change in group strengths, the Conservative Group allocation on a strict arithmetical basis, was 38, however as no Group legally can have a majority of any Committees unless it has an overall majority of Members on the Council, it could not therefore take up its full allocation.

Consequently, whilst the Conservative Group size has decreased, along with the number of Councillors on the Council, this has not affected the number of seats it currently fills.

Former Councillor Hastings held six Conservative seats -

Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel (Chair)

- Governance & Audit & Standards Committee
- Licensing Committee
- Planning Committee
- Scrutiny Management Panel
- Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel (Chair)

All six above vacancies are Conservative appointments, on the understanding that the Conservative Group wish to continue to gift their allocated seat on the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel to Councillor Godier as one of the non-aligned Independent Members.

There is also an existing unfilled position of Vice-Chair on the Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel which has not previously been determined.

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

Consequently the total number of seats be divided as follows:

Table 1.

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	20 (21)	*37 (37)	7	5	21 (21)*	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	2 plus 1 gifted*	1	0	1 plus 1gifted*	0
Non-Aligned Independent JF	1	2	0	0	2	0
	41	76	15	10	42	9

*Conservative group gifted to Councillor Godier 1 seat on the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel (within Group 5 of the above table).

The Group 5 section of appointments are consequently as follows:

Table 2.

Political Group	Employment Committee	Governance & Audit & Standards Committee	Health Overview Scrutiny Panel	Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel	Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel	Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel	Housing and Social Care Scrutiny Panel
Conservative	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
Liberal Democrat	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
UKIP							1
Labour			1		1		
Non-Aligned independent (PG)				1* (Gifted)		1	
Non-Aligned independent (JF)	1	1					
Totals	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

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: