

Title of meeting: City Council

Date of meeting: 16 October 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

As previously notified, Councillor Jennie Brent has joined the Liberal Democrats Group and Councillor James Fleming has become a Non-Aligned Independent Councillor. There is consequently a need under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to review the allocation of seats upon Committees and Panels.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council

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

3. Background Information and implications

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

The Conservative Group lose three seats overall

The Liberal Democrats Group gain two seats overall

The three non-aligned independent members are entitled to a total of 5 seats to be allocated between them

The new table taking account in the changes in Group strengths on the Council is as follows:

Table 1. Proportionality chart (Revised Oct 2018)

Group / Cllr	# of cllrs / group	Total # of seats	Licensing Committee Group 3	Planning Committee Group 4	Regulatory & scrutiny Group 5	Scrutiny Management Panel Group 6
Conservative	17 (19)	31 (34)	6 (7)	4 (4)	17 (19)	4 (4)
Liberal Democrat	17 (16)	31 (29)	6	4	17 (16)	4 (3)
Labour	5	9	2	1	5	1
John Ferrett	1	1 / 2 (2)	0 / 1 (0)	0 / 1 (0)	0 / 1 / 2 (1)	0 (1)
Claire Udy	1	1 / 2 (2)	0 / 1 (0)	0 / 1 (1)	0 / 1 / 2 (1)	0 (0)
James Fleming	1	1 / 2 (3)	0 / 1 (0)	0 / 1 (1)	0 / 1 / 2 (1)	0 (1)
	42	76	15	10	42	9

It is recommended that the Council appoint as per the above proportionality chart -:

The Conservative Group

Reduce one seat from the Licensing Committee, taking them down from 7 to 6 seats
 Reduce two seats on the Regulatory/Scrutiny Panels group, reducing from 19 to 17 seats (not filling the vacant seats on the Employment committee and Health overview and Scrutiny Panel would involve the least impact)
 Appoint one additional member to the Planning Committee, filling the vacancy left by Councillor Fleming maintaining the Group at 4 seats
 Retain and appoint a seat on Scrutiny Management Panel, filling the vacancy left by Councillor Fleming - maintaining the Group at 4 seats

The Liberal Democrats Group

Retain current appointments on the Licensing Committee, maintaining 6 seats
 Retain current appointments on the Planning Committee, maintaining 4 seats
 Gain a seat on Scrutiny Management Panel, taking the Group from 3 to 4 seats
 Gain a seat in the Regulatory/Scrutiny Panels group, taking the Group from 16 to 17

*The approach which involves least impact would be to fill the vacancies on either the Employment Committee or the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Labour Group

No changes

The Non-Aligned Independents

As the seat allocation for the political groups' total 71 as per above chart, there are 5 seats remaining to allocate across the three Non-Aligned Independent members, after the Liberal Democrat Group have allocated their additional Group 5 appointment.

Based on the political balance regulations, Councillor John Ferrett will not be able to retain his seat on the Scrutiny Management Panel, as the three Political Groups have full arithmetical entitlement to all these seats - allocated as detailed in the proportionality table.

Taking account of the above mentioned Liberal Democrat appointment, 5 of the following 6 positions are to be filled by the 3 Non-Aligned Independent members (Councillors John Ferrett; James Fleming & Claire Udy) are as follows:

Group 3 - 1 Seat on the Licensing Committee

Group 4 - 1 Seat on the Planning Committee (Currently held by C. Udy)

Group 5 - 1 Seat on the Employment Committee (see above)

Group 5 - 1 Seat on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (see above)

Group 5 - 1 Seat on Housing and Social Care Scrutiny Panel (Currently held by C. Udy)

Group 5 - 1 Seat on Governance & Audit & Standards Committee (Currently held by J. Ferrett)

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:

None.

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

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Signed by: