

Title of meeting:	City Council
Date of meeting:	21 July 2020
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 advised, following Councillor Symes becoming an Independent Councillor, there is 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 the options highlighted and any agreement between the affected Group and the Independent Member**
- (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 to be considered in conjunction with the options highlighted (the figures in brackets indicate the position prior to the change).

The proportionality chart takes into account current appointments and previous decisions by Council and highlights arithmetical allocations by groupings. The Council may depart from strict adherence to these numbers within the committee groupings as long as the rules in the relevant legislation are adhered to and they remain within overall allocations. For example, no group may hold more than 50% of the seats on any body as no political group has a majority on the Council.

Since the last review, as previously advised there has been a change in Group strengths on the Council with Councillor L Symes becoming a non-aligned Independent Member.

The Conservative Group consequently lose two seats, with Councillor Symes being entitled to two seats. Councillor Symes previously had one seat and that was on the Licensing Committee and arithmetically the Conservatives are entitled to retain 5 seats on that Committee and fill the seat vacated by Councillor Symes. However Councillor Symes could remain on that Committee and leave the Conservative Group undersubscribed on it.

The Conservative Group currently has the subscribed number of seats (14) overall in Group 5 (the various Scrutiny Panels etc) although it has only one seat on Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel.

Arithmetically, the Conservative Group are now slightly oversubscribed on both the Planning Committee and the Scrutiny Management Panel, but the oversubscription is marginally greater on the latter.

The outcome of discussions regarding seat allocation between those affected will be circulated and published before the meeting.

Proposed allocation of Seats for 2020/21 (Table 1) below

The representation of groups must be in accordance with the rules set out in the relevant legislation. Details of the proposed allocation of places on Panels and Committees are set out below - The options are highlighted with an *



Groups	1	2	3	4	5	6
	No of Cllrs	Total No of Cttee Seats	Licensing Committee (15 Members)	Planning Committee (10 Members)	7 committees and panels (see note) (6 Members each)	Scrutiny Management Panel (9 Members)
Liberal Democrat	17	31 (but 1 gifted to PPPG)	6 but gifted 1 seat to PPPG	4	17	4
Conservative	14 (was 15)	25 (was 27)	*5/4	*4/3	*14/13	*4/3
Labour	6	11	2	1	7	1
PPP	2	3 (4 th seat gifted by LD)	1 gifted 1 seat by LD	1	2	
Non-Aligned Independent JF	1	2	1		1	
Non-Aligned Independent LM	1	2	1		1	
Non-Aligned Independent LS	1	2 (1)	*1/0	*1/0	*1/0	*1/0
	42	76	15	10	42	9

Note: Group 5 contains the following: Governance & Audit & Standards; Employment; & Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel; and the 4 themed scrutiny panels

Options

The Conservative Group lose 2 seats from 2 of the 4 bodies below and Councillor Symes gains the 2 seats lost from the Conservative Group.

Licensing Committee

Scrutiny Management Panel

Planning Committee

Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel.

The option proposals for the allocation of committee/panel seats from Conservatives to Cllr L Symes are to limit overall impact on seat allocations whilst keeping in line with proportionality - any variation from these will likely affect seats of other groups.

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

5. Finance Comments - none in relation to this report

6. Integrated impact assessment (IIA)

This report does not require an Equality Impact Assessment as the proposals contained within this report do not have any impact upon a particular equalities group.

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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