

Title of meeting: City Council

Date of meeting: 13 October 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 Lee Mason re-joining the Conservative Group, there is a need, under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to review the allocation of seats upon Committees and Panels.

Unrelated to this review there is also a need to fill a number of vacant Committee positions following Councillor Attwell replacing Councillor Tom Wood as the Resources Portfolio holder.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council

- (a) Determine the allocation of seats on committees and panels based on the information set out in the below proportionality chart, having regard to the option highlighted and any agreement between the affected Group and the former Independent Member**
- (b) Ratify consequent named membership changes proposed at the meeting,**
- (c) To fill the Liberal Democrat seat vacancies unrelated to the review that have become vacant since the last Council meeting and agree the replacement Chair for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Nominations are set out in the report**

3. Background Information and implications

As a result of a change in Group strengths, consequent seats on committees are as shown in Table 1 below 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 Lee Mason re-joining the Conservative Group.

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.

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	15 (was 14)	27 (was 25)	5(was 4)	4	15 (was 14)	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 LS	1	2	1			1
	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 gain 2 seats from Councillor Lee Mason as a previously non-aligned Member and the simplest option would be for those two seats to be from the Licensing Committee and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, as they are two seats previously held by Councillor Lee Mason who can continue holding those seats as a Conservative Group Member, an approach supported by the Conservative Group Leader .

Other Changes Unrelated to the Review

The below vacancies have now arisen for the Liberal Democrat Group to fill following Councillor Attwell recently becoming a Cabinet Member and consequently being precluded from now sitting on them. Additionally there is an outstanding unfilled Liberal Democrat vacancy on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (so two positions on that Panel need to be filled by the Liberal Democrat Group. Nominations from the Liberal Democrat Group to fill the vacancies are also detailed below

- Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Full Members Councillor Tom Wood and Councillor Fuller- with Councillor Fuller becoming the Chair (previously held by Councillor Attwell)
- Housing and Social Care Scrutiny Panel - full Member Councillor Purvis
- Governance and Audit and Standards Committee - Full Member Councillor Tom Wood
- Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel - Standing Deputy Will Purvis
- Scrutiny Management Panel - Standing Deputy -Tom Wood

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