

Decision maker: City Council - 11 February 2014

Subject: Review of Political Proportionality on Committees and Panels

Report by: Chief Executive

Wards affected: N/A

Key decision (over £250k): No

1. Purpose of report

Following the recent changes in Group Strengths on the Council there is a consequent need under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to review the allocation of committee seats to the political groups and non-aligned members.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council

- (a) **determine the allocation of seats on committees and Panels based on the information set out below and having regard to any inter group agreements that may be achieved prior to the meeting, and**
- (b) **ratify consequent named membership changes proposed by the respective Group Leaders at the meeting.**

3. Supporting background Information and implications

Set out below are the implications of the change in Group Strengths on the Council. The figures in brackets indicate the original position where this is different to the revised position. Some of the implications may appear perverse, in that one political group may lose membership but it may be other political parties that lose seats. This is because the law requires that the majority party retains a majority on all committees and panels that are required to be politically proportional in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 - Section 15 (5b)

"That the majority of seats on the body (committees) is allocated to a particular group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Authority's membership".

Thus, the Liberal Democrat Group will hold approximately five seats above their strict mathematical entitlement as they have a majority of seats upon the Council and thus are required by the Regulations to have a majority on each politically balanced committee/panel on the Council.

Group Leaders will need to advise the changes in membership required to meet their new committee allocations.

Political Group proportionality table (on the basis of two former Liberal Democrat Group Members becoming non-aligned/independent)

Members	Party	Licensing Committee	Planning Committee	Scrutiny & Regulatory (2)	SMP	Total seats	+/- (from current 2013/14 appointments)
		15	10	42	9	76	
23 (25)	LD	8 (9)	6	28	5	47(48)	-1 from Licensing
12	Con	5 (4)	3	9 (10)	3	20(20)	+ 1 Licensing - 1 Scrutiny/ Regulatory
5	Lab	2	1	3 (4)	1	7 (8)	-1 Scrutiny/ Regulatory
1	LD Non-aligned	0	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	+1 Scrutiny/ Regulatory*
1	Ind	0	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	+1 Scrutiny/ Regulatory*

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. (see table below)
9 members	Scrutiny Management Panel

Committee membership changes

The Conservative Group gain one seat on the Licensing Committee from the Liberal Democrat Group.

The Conservative Group lose one seat on one of the below listed panels/committees to one of the non-aligned/independent members.

The Labour Group lose one seat on one of the below listed panels/committees to one of the non-aligned/independent members.

Panels & Committees

The current appointment numbers on these bodies is detailed below; The bracketed figure shows what the number would be if a non-aligned/Independent Member was placed on a particular Body

	LD	Con	Lab
Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny (EDCL)	4	1((0)	1(0)
Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny (ECYP)	4	1(0)	1(0)
Health Overview Scrutiny Panel Scrutiny (HOSP)	4	1(0)	1(0)
Housing and Social Care Scrutiny (HSC)	4	2(1)	0
Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel (TECS)	4	2(1)	0
Employment Committee	4	2(1)	0
Governance & Audit & Standards Committee	4	1(0)	1(0)
Currently	28	10	4
*proposed:	28	9	3
	LD	Con	Lab

***Plus one seat to the Liberal Democrat (Non-aligned) member (Councillor E Scott) and one seat to the Independent member (Councillor M Hancock). The Council will have to determine which member goes on which Body.**

These changes are on the basis that the total membership on each of these bodies remains at 6

4. **Legal Implications** - legal comments are embodied in the report
5. **Finance Comments** - none in relation to this report