

Title of meeting: City Council

Date of meeting: 13 October 2021

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, Councillor Symes has re-joined the Conservative Group, having been an Independent Councillor, and 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 the suggested way forward detailed below and any inter-group agreement.**
- (b) Ratify consequent named membership change 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 suggested way forward set out below (the figures in brackets indicate the position prior to the change).

The proportionality table specifies allocations by groupings.

Since the last review, as previously advised there has been a change in Group strengths on the Council with Councillor L Symes re-joining the Conservative Group having been an Independent Member.

Proposed allocation of Seats for 2021/22 (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 suggested way forward is detailed underneath the table.

Proportionality Chart - figures in brackets indicate position prior to the change in Group Strengths

	Group Strength	Total Seats	Licensing Gp 1	Planning Gp 2	Regulatory./ Scrutiny Gp 3	Scrutiny Mngt Panel Gp 4
Conservative	(16) 17	(29) 31	6	4	(16) 17	(3) 4
Liberal Democrat	15	27	5	4	15	3
Labour	7	13	2	2	7	2
Progressive Portsmouth People Group	2	3	1	0	2	0
Non-Aligned Independent George Madgwick	1	2	1	0	1	0
	42	76	15	10	42	9

Note: Group 3 contains the following: Governance & Audit & Standards; Employment; & Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel; and the 4 themed scrutiny panels

The Conservative Group gain two seats, both currently held by Councillor Symes when an Independent Member, namely one seat on the Housing and Social Care Scrutiny Panel and one seat on the Scrutiny Management Panel

The suggested way forward is for these two seats to continue to be filled by Councillor Symes in her capacity as a Conservative Group Councillor.

This approach to the allocation of committee/panel seats has no impact on seat allocations in respect of other Members and is in line with proportionality.

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