

Title of meeting: City Council

Date of meeting: 28 February 2023

Subject: Review of Political Proportionality on Committees and Panels

Report by: Chief Executive

Wards affected: N/A

Key decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 Councillor Cal Corkery and Councillor Kirsty Mellor are no longer members of the Labour Group and are consequently now non-aligned independent councillors on the council. Therefore, there is a need under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to review the allocation of seats on 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 changes proposed at the meeting.**

3. Background Information and implications

- 3.1 As a result of a change in group strengths, consequent seats on committees are as shown in Table 1 at para 3.2 overleaf to be considered in conjunction with the suggested way forward set out below (the figures in brackets indicate the position prior to the changes).

3.2 Proposed allocation of seats for 2022/23 (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 within the report.

Proportionality Chart - figures in brackets indicate positions prior to the change in Group Strengths. The figures not in bold reflect the recalculated proportionality following the change in group strengths. The figures in bold reflect the proposed gifting of a seat on the Licensing Committee from Cllr Mellor to the Labour Group as detailed in paragraph 3.7.

	Group Strength	Total Seats	Licensing Gp 3	Planning Gp 4	Regulatory/ Scrutiny Gp 5	Scrutiny Mngt Panel Gp 6
Conservative	13	24	5	3	13	3
Liberal Democrat	17	31	6	4	17	4
Labour	(8) 6	(14) 10 (includes one seat previously gifted to Cllr Smyth)	(3) 2 3*	1	(7) 5	(2) 1
Portsmouth Independent Party Group	3	5	1	1	3	0
Independent Councillor (Cllr Smyth)	1	3 (one seat previously gifted by the Labour Group)	0	1 (seat previously gifted by the Labour Group)	2	0
Independent Councillor (Cllr Corkery)	(0) 1	(0) 2	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 1	(0) 1
Independent Councillor (Cllr Mellor)	(0) 1	(0) 2 1	(0) 1 0	(0) 0	(0) 1	(0) 0
	42	76	15	10	42	9

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

3.3 The proportionality chart shows that the Labour Group lose four seats in total, two each to Cllr Corkery and Cllr Mellor as non aligned independent members. These seats are two on Group 5 committees, one on the Licensing Committee and one on the Scrutiny Management Panel.

- 3.4** Previously, Cllr Corkery was a Labour Group appointment on the Group 5 Employment Committee (as well as Chair) and the Scrutiny Management Panel. He was also a Labour Group Standing Deputy on the Planning Committee. In addition, he was the Labour Group opposition spokesperson for the Leader's Portfolio (which accompanies the role of Group Leader) and the Cabinet Member for Housing & Preventing Homelessness. The opposition spokesperson appointments are for the Labour Group Leader to appoint to, and notice has been received from the Labour Group Leader that Cllr Charlotte Gerada is the opposition spokesperson for the Housing & Preventing Homelessness Portfolio. In addition, notice has been received that Cllr George Fielding is the Labour Group opposition spokesperson for the Planning Policy & City Development Portfolio, which was previously vacant. Being in the gift of the Labour Group Leader, these appointments have taken effect.
- 3.5** Previously, Cllr Mellor was a member and Chair of the Group 5 Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel and the Labour Group Opposition Spokesperson for the Cabinet Member for Safety in the Community. The latter is a matter for the Leader of the Labour Group to appoint to.
- 3.6** It is suggested that the least disruptive way forward is for Cllr Corkery to be reappointed to the Group 5 Employment Committee and Scrutiny Management Panel seats which he held previously as a Labour Group member. In respect of Cllr Mellor, the least disruptive way forward would be for her to be reappointed to the Group 5 Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel and appointed to the Licensing Committee.
- 3.7** It is within the gift of a group or non-aligned independent member to gift seats to another group or non-aligned independent member. To minimise disruption at this late point in the municipal year, Cllr Kirsty Mellor has indicated that she is happy to gift the seat to which she is entitled on the Licensing Committee to the Labour Group.
- 3.8** Upon there being a change to group memberships, the affected member(s) lose their seats on committees until a revised proportionality calculation and subsequent appointments to committees are agreed by Council. This being the case, Full Council is invited to elect a Chair for the Employment Committee and a Chair for the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel.
- 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: Chief Executive

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