

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: City Council
Date of meeting: 13 October 2015
Subject: Review of Political Proportionality on Committees and Panels
Report by: Chief Executive
Wards affected: N/A
Key decision: No

1. Purpose of report

With the recent change in Group Strengths on the Council with Councillor Stockdale joining the Conservative Group and Councillor K Ferrett becoming a non-aligned Independent Member, 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 the non-aligned member.

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. Background Information and implications

As a result of these changes, the Group Strengths and consequent seats on committees are as shown below (the figures in brackets indicate the position prior to the change)

Group	Councillors	Total Seats 76
Conservative	19 (18)	34 (33)
Liberal Democrat	14 (15)	25 (27)
UKIP	4	7
Labour	3 (4)	6 (7)
Independent (PG)	1	2
Independent (KF)	1 (0)	2 (0)

As shown above, the Conservative Group's overall seat allocation increases by one, the Liberal Democrat Group's overall seat allocation decreases by two, the Labour Group's overall allocation decreases by one and Councillor K Ferrett as an independent non-aligned member receives 2 seats.

Impact on Committee/Panel Places

- 1.The Conservative Group increase by one seat on the Planning Committee and the Liberal Democrat Group decreases by one seat on that Committee -
Cllr Stockdale is currently a member of that Committee and if she continues serving on it, no membership changes are required,
- 2.The Conservative Group lose one seat on the Licensing Committee to the independent Member Councillor (K Ferrett). This does not take account of Councillor Stockdale who currently sits on that Committee.
- 3.The Liberal Democrat Group need to identify a member to sit on the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Stockdale who sat on the Committee previously by virtue of being a liberal Democrat member (to fill their allocation on that Committee).
- 4.The Liberal Democrat Group need to relinquish a seat to the Conservative Group on one of the regulatory committees/scrutiny panels (*see below)

*The Conservative Group can have no more than three seats on any of these regulatory/scrutiny bodies. This is currently the position in respect of all except the following six member Panels, on which they currently have two members on each respectively .

Health Scrutiny Panel
Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel
Housing and Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Of these the Housing and Social Care Scrutiny Panel may potentially be considered the logical panel to review the membership of, on the basis that it is the only panel on which the Liberal Democrat Group currently has three members on.

- 5.Councillor K Ferrett is entitled to one of the labour seats on one of scrutiny panels -
Councillor K Ferrett is currently a member of the Education Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel and if Council allocates that seat to Councillor K Ferrett, no other change is required.

Consequently the total number of seats be divided as follows (the bracketed figure was prior to the change).

Members	Party	Licensing Committee	Planning Committee	*Scrutiny & Regulatory (2)	SMP	Total seats	
		15	10	42	9	76	
19	Con	6 (7)	5 (4)	19 (18)	4	34	+1
14	LD	5	3 (4)	14 (15)	3	25	-2
4	UKIP	1	1	4	1	7	
3	Lab	1	1	3 (4)	1	6	-1
1	Ind PG	1	-	1	-	2	
1	Ind KF	1 (0)	-	1	-	2	+2

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.
9 members	Scrutiny Management Panel

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

5. Finance Comments - none in relation to this report

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 Signed by:

Appendices:

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:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: