

Report to COUNCIL

Political Balance Review – Composition of Political Groups - Outstanding Committee Appointments and Outside Bodies Appointments

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Reason for Decision

The Council is asked to review the political composition of committees and to note the composition of the political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and under Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 due to reduction in Council Membership from 60 to 58.

The Council is asked to agree the outstanding appointments of members to serve on the several Committees detailed in the constitution and listed in Appendix 1 to this report and the outstanding appointments to Outside Bodies as at Appendix 2 to this report.

Recommendations

- (a) The composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1 be noted;
- (b) The several Committees detailed at paragraph 1.5 be constituted with the Terms of Reference and delegated powers as detailed in the Constitution amendments report.
- (c) The number of seats on the various Committees for the 2020/21 Municipal Year be as detailed in paragraph 1.6 be approved;
- (d) Council confirms the allocation of seats to the political groups and makes appointments to fill the seats in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as detailed in Appendix 1;

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- (e) Council appoints any outstanding Chair and Vice-Chairs of each of the various Committees for the 2020/21 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 1, with the exception of the Selection and Appeals Committees and reaffirms the District Lead for each of the District Areas.
 - (f) Council agrees the outstanding appointments to Outside Bodies at appendix 2.
 - (g) Council to confirm the Standards Committee remains outside political balance as in previous years to ensure appropriate representation.
 - (h) Council to confirm that the Traffic Regulation Order Panel remains outside political balance.
 - (i) Any outstanding appointments to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Leader of the main opposition group;

Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups

1 Background

The Council is asked to review the political composition of committees due to the reduction in Members from 60 to 58 and to note the composition of the political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

1.1 Political Groups

Council is asked to note that the composition of the political groups, as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, is:-

(i)	The Labour Group	44 Members
(ii)	The Liberal Democrat Group	8 Members
(iii)	The Conservative Group	4 Members
(iv)	Independent	2 Members

1.2 Outstanding appointments

Council is asked to agree outstanding appointments to serve on the several Committees detailed in the Constitution and listed in Appendix 1 to this report, namely:-

1.3 Political Balance

There are four statutory principles of political balance which have to be applied in filling appointments to Committees. These are contained in S15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The principles have to be applied in priority order as follows:-

- (a) that not all seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
- (b) that the majority of the seats on the body are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group are a majority of the Authority's membership;
- (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant Authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that Authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority; and
- (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the same number of all

seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority.

The political group sizes as a percentage of the total membership of the Council are:-

Labour Group	44/58 x 100 =75.86%	86 seats x 75.86%= 65.23	66 seats
Liberal Democrat Group	8/58 x 100 = 13.79 %	86 seats x 13.79% = 11.85	12 seats
Conservative Group	4/58 x 100 =6.89 %	86 seats x 6.89%= 5.92	6 seats
Independent	1/58 x 100 =1.72 %	86 seats x 1.72% = 1.47	1 seat
Independent	1/58 x 100 =1.72 %	86 seats x 1.72% = 1.47	1 seat

* Each of the Calculations have been adjusted to ensure the total number of seats are apportioned

- 1.4 The application of these percentages to the number of seats on individual Committees gives the following allocation of seats:-

COMMITTEE SIZE	LABOUR (L)	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS (LD)	CONSERVATIVE (C)	IND (I)	IND (I)
15	11.38	2.07	1.03	0.26	0.26
14	10.62	1.93	0.97	0.24	0.24
13	9.86	1.79	0.90	0.22	0.22
12	9.10	1.66	0.83	0.21	0.21
11	8.34	1.52	0.76	0.19	0.19
10	7.59	1.38	0.69	0.17	0.17
9	6.83	1.24	0.62	0.16	0.16
8	6.07	1.10	0.55	0.14	0.14
7	5.31	0.97	0.48	0.12	0.12
6	4.55	0.83	0.41	0.10	0.10
5	3.79	0.69	0.34	0.09	0.09
4	3.03	0.55	0.28	0.07	0.07
3	2.28	0.41	0.21	0.05	0.05
2	1.52	0.28	0.14	0.03	0.03

- 1.5 Under the political balance rules after these percentages have been applied to the total number of seats on Committees of the Council any remaining seats must be allocated to members who are not Members of any political group.

Applying political balance as detailed above, the allocation of seats, to the current committee structure, would be as follows:-

Committee	Seats	L	LD	C	I	I
Licensing	14	11	2*	0	0	0
Planning	14*	11	2	0	0	0
Audit Committee	9*	7*	1	0	0	0
O&S Performance & Value for Money Select Committee	8*	6	1	0	0	0
O&S Board	8*	6	1	0	0	0
Health Scrutiny	8*	6	1	0	0	0

Local NJC	7	6	1	0	0	0
Selection Committee	5	4	1	0	0	0
Commons Registration	5	4	1	0	0	0
Charitable Trust Committee	5	4	1	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	3*	2	0	0	0	0
Total	86	67*	12*	0*	0*	0*

* The above calculation leaves 2 committee place to be reallocated and 7 places to be allocated.

1.6 Adjustment of Seats

In accordance with the rules of political balance the number of seats must be allocated to accord with the rules above. It is therefore proposed that the number of seats on the various Committees for the 2020/21 Municipal Year be fixed as follows:-

Committee	Seats	L	LD	C	I	I
Licensing	14	11	1	1	1	0
Planning	14	11	2	1	0	0
O&S Performance & Value for Money Select Committee	8	6	1	1	0	0
O&S Board	8	6	1	1	0	0
Health Scrutiny	8	6	1	1	0	0
Audit Committee	9	6	1	1	0	1
Local NJC	7	6	1	0	0	0
Commons Registration	5	4	1	0	0	0
Selection Committee	5	4	1	0	0	0
Charitable Trustee Committee	5	4	1	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	3	2	1	0	0	0
Total	86	66	12	6	1	1

The Health and Well Being Board is not included in the calculation above. Although the Committee is appointed by Council, the Local Authority (Public Health and Well Being Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provide for the disapplication of Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Council are also asked to appoint a District Lead for each District Area.

- 1.7 Substitutes are to be appointed by the political groups in accordance with the Substitute Scheme contained in the Constitution. Substitutes for Overview and Scrutiny Boards may be nominated up to a maximum of the number of Members of that Group serving on the Board. Substitutes are not permitted for Licensing. For the Planning Committee, up to 14 substitutes are to be nominated in accordance with the political balance of each Committee.

Council is also asked to appoint substitutes to the Traffic Regulation Order Panel.

- 1.8 Council is asked to review the political composition of the Committees; to determine the allocation of seats to political groups; and to make the appointments to fill the seats in

accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations.

1.09 **Background Papers**

The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

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1.10 **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Membership of Committees.

Appendix 2-7 – Outside Bodies