

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 13(b)
7 MARCH 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS UPDATE

RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM: Interim Director of Law and Governance
<p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <p>(a) Notes that there are 102 seats on committees, as agreed at Annual Council on 22 May 2017;</p> <p>(b) Agrees the allocation of seats on those committees subject to the political balance arrangements (Appendix 1); and</p> <p>(c) Confirms the allocation of seats on those committees not subject to political balance arrangements remains unchanged.</p>

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the impact on the political balance of the Council, following the resignation of two Councillors from the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Group.

2. IMPACT UPON THE POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY FOLLOWING THE BY-ELECTION

- 2.1 On the 22 January 2018 Councillor Fower resigned from the Labour group to stand as an independent, non-aligned Member. This decreased the Labour Member numbers from 16 to 15.
- 2.2 On the 24 January 2018 Councillor Davidson resigned from the Liberal Democrat group to stand as an independent, non-aligned Member. This decreased the Liberal Democrat Member numbers from 6 to 5.
- 2.2 The political proportionality was calculated resulting in the following variances:
- Conservative Group entitlement to seats, increases by 2.
 - Labour Group entitlement to seats, decreases by 1.
 - Liberal Democrat entitlement to seats, decreases by 1.
- 2.3 There were no further variances other than those outlined above. All other Groups retain the same number of seats as allocated at the Council meeting in 11 October 2017.

3. NUMBER OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

- 3.1 In order to allocate seats, the Council must first confirm the total number of seats on each committee. For the purpose of calculating the entitlement of each political group to seats on committees, the following are included:

Committee	Seats
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Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee	11
Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee	11
Health Scrutiny Committee	11
Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	11
Employment Committee	7
Licensing Committee (Regulatory)	11
Planning and Environmental Protection Committee	11
Appeals and Planning Review Committee	11
Corporate Parenting Committee	11
Audit Committee	7
TOTAL	102

4. POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

4.1 Once it has decided the number and size of committees, Council needs to decide how many seats each group is to have on its committees. In accordance with the legislation, the following principles should apply to the allocation of seats as far as reasonably practicable:

- (a) That not all the seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;
- (b) That the majority of the seats on each committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
- (c) Subject to (a) and (b) above, when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council, must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership; and
- (d) Subject to (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.

4.2 The political balance of the Council can be calculated by using the following formula.

$$\frac{\text{No of Group Members} \times 100}{58}$$

4.3 Following the above changes to Group numbers, the political balance of the Council is as follows:

Group	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Party	Werrington First	UKIP	Total
Councillors	30	15	5	3	3	2	58
Proportionality %	51.72	25.86	8.62	5.17	5.17	3.45	99.9

4.4 The calculation to determine the strict entitlement of political groups to seats on committees is:

$$\frac{\% \text{ from table 1}}{100} \times \frac{\text{Total No of seats available (102) – see above}}{100}$$

5. APPLYING THE RULES

5.1 The allocation of seats between political groups for each committee is set out in **Appendix 1** based on a total of 102 seats.

6. APPOINTMENTS EXEMPTED FROM POLITICAL BALANCE

6.1 Some Committees are automatically exempt from the internal political balance rules. These Committees are as follows:

- The Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003); and
- The Health and Wellbeing Board.

6.3 These Committees have statutory exemption from the political balance calculations. As agreed at the Annual Council meeting the membership of the Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003) reflects the same membership as the Licensing Committee (Regulatory). The Health and Wellbeing Board has a prescribed membership.

6.4 Council is asked to confirm that the appointments to these Committees agreed at the Council meeting in May 2017 remain unchanged.

7. APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER AUTHORITIES

7.1 The change in political balance has no impact upon the seat entitlement of groups on the following other authorities:

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Audit and Governance Committee.
- Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

7.2 Council is asked to confirm that the appointments to these Committee agreed at the Annual Council meeting in May 2017 remains unchanged.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Financial Comments: There are no direct financial consequences.

8.2 Legal Comments: These are addressed in the report

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 Peterborough City Council's Constitution.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1 - Allocations of seats on Committees subject to political balance

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