

ANNUAL COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No.13 (a)
25 JULY 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

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POLITICAL BALANCE CALCULATION AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMEN

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Interim Director of Law and Governance	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agrees the updated allocation of seats on those council committees subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 1). 2. Agrees the appointment of the following positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Chris Harper • Vice Chairman of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Graham Casey • Vice Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Committee – Councillor Stephen Lane • Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee – Councillor Kim Aitken • Vice Chairman of the Constitutional and Ethics Committee - Councillor Shazir Bashir 	

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 Councillor June Bull on 12 June 2018.

2. IMPACT ON THE POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY FOLLOWING COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

2.1 On the 12 June 2018 Councillor June Bull resigned her position as an Elected Member. This reduced the total number of Elected Members from 60 to 59. The number of Conservative Members decreased from 31 to 30.

2.2 The political proportionality was therefore recalculated to include this vacancy and there were no changes to the proportionality on any of the Councils committees. The new political proportionality calculation can be found at **Appendix 1**.

3. POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY CALCULATION

3.1 Council agreed at its Annual Meeting held on 21 May 2018 the total number of seats on each committee as listed below:

Committee	Seats
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
Constitution and Ethics Committee	7
TOTAL NUMBER OF SEATS AVAILABLE	109

3.2 Council must 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.

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

$$\frac{\text{No of Members in (x) Group} \times 100}{54 \text{ (Total No. of Members in all Groups)}}$$

3.4 Following the resignation of Councillor Bull the political balance of the Council is as follows:

Table 1.

Group	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Werrington First	Total
Councillors (in Groups)	30	14	7	3	54
Proportionality %	55.56	25.93	12.96	5.56	100.00

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

$$\frac{\% \text{ from table 1}}{100} \times \frac{\text{Total No of seats available (109)}}{100}$$

4. APPLYING THE RULES

4.1 The allocation of seats between political groups for each committee is set out in **Appendix 1** based on a total of 109 seats.

There is no impact on appointments to other Authorities or committees exempt from political balance requirements.

5. CHAIRMANSHIPS AND VICE CHAIRMANSHIPS

5.1 The Council must decide which Councillors to appoint as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of its committees at its annual meeting. As a result of the resignation of Councillor Bull a vacant position has arisen for the Chairmanship of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee. The nomination for this position is Councillor Chris Harper.

There are further vacancies for Vice Chairmanships on a number of committees including the Vice Chairmanship of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee as this was previously occupied by Councillor Chris Harper. The nominations for these vacant positions are:

- Vice Chairman of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Graham Casey
- Vice Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Committee – Councillor Stephen Lane
- Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee – Councillor Kim Aitken
- Vice Chairman of the Constitutional and Ethics Committee - Councillor Shazir Bashir

6. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

Legal Implications

6.2 All the relevant legal implications are addressed within the report.

Equalities Implications

6.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

8.1 Peterborough City Council's Constitution.

9. APPENDICES

9.1 **Appendix 1** – Updated allocations of seats on committees subject to political balance

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