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| COUNCIL | AGENDA ITEM No.13(a) |
| 23 JUNE 2021 | PUBLIC REPORT |

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| Report of: | Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance | |
| Contact Officer(s): | Pippa Turvey, Democratic and Constitutional Services Director | Tel. 452460 |

POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS

| RECOMMENDATIONS | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| FROM: <i>Director of Law and Governance</i> | Deadline date: <i>N/A</i> |
| <p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agrees the amendment to the allocation of seats on those committees subject to political balance arrangements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Labour Group to lose a seat on the Growth, Environment, and Resources Scrutiny Committee and gain a seat on the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee. • The Green Group to lose a seat the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and gain a seat on the Growth, Environment, and Resources Scrutiny Committee. | |

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 a request from the Labour Group and the Green Group.

2. ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

- 2.1 Under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the City Council has a duty to review the allocation of seats on its committees between political groups. The allocation of seats to political groups was agreed for the 2021/2022 municipal at the Annual Council meeting on 26 May 2021.
- 2.2 Political Groups are allocated seats proportionate to their size, subject to the majority group being first given a majority of seats on the committees.

3. POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

- 3.1 At the Annual Council meeting on 26 May 2021, Council agreed the political balance of the Council as follows:

| Group | Conservative | Labour | Lib Dems | Werringt on First | Green | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Councillors (in Groups) | 29 | 17 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 60 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Proportionality % | 48.33% | 28.33% | 13.33% | 5.00% | 5.00% | 99.99% |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|

4. ALLOCATION OF SEATS

4.1 In relation to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and the Growth, Environment, and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Full Council agreed the following seat allocation between the Council's political groups:

| Group | Conservative | Labour | Lib Dem | Werrington First | Green |
|---|--------------|--------|---------|------------------|-------|
| Children and Education Scrutiny Committee | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Growth, Environment, and Resources Scrutiny Committee | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

5. CHANGES REQUESTED TO THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS

5.1 Councillor Howell, Green Group Leader, and Councillor Shaz Nawaz, Labour Group Leader, have requested the below amendments to the allocation of seats to the two reference scrutiny committees.

- The Labour Group to lose a seat on the Growth, Environment, and Resources Scrutiny Committee and gain a seat on the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.
- The Green Group to lose a seat the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and gain a seat on the Growth, Environment, and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

5.2 As a direct swapping of seats, this change would not impact the overall political balance, as set out in the table at 3.1. The new seat allocation for these two committees would be:

| Group | Conservative | Labour | Lib Dem | Werrington First | Green |
|---|--------------|--------|---------|------------------|-------|
| Children and Education Scrutiny Committee | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Growth, Environment, and Resources Scrutiny Committee | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

5.3 The Members appointed to these committees as a result of this change would be Councillor Day to Growth, Environment, and Resources Scrutiny Committee, and Cllr Imtiaz Ali to Children and Education Scrutiny Committee. These two appointments can be carried out by the Monitoring Officer, under the authority delegated to the Monitoring Officer at the Annual Council meeting at agenda item 10, 'Appointments to Committees and Other Authorities'.

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.

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 6.4 There is no change to the Council's carbon impact arising from this report.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 7.1 Peterborough City Council's Constitution
- 7.2 Peterborough City Council Annual Council Meeting 26 May 2021 – Minutes

8. APPENDICES

- 8.1 None

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