

## **Allocation of Seats to Political Groups 14 September 2011**

### **Report of the Head of Governance**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise Council of the calculations relating to the allocation of seats in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Council's agreed protocol following the resignation of a Member from a political group.

**This report is public**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 and Part 4 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990, the City Council approves the calculations and allocation of seats set out in paragraph 2 of the report.**
- (2) That nominations for appointment to Committees be approved.**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Councillor Val Histed advised of her resignation from the Conservative group on 18 July 2011 and her intention to be an independent, non-aligned Member.
- 1.2 This causes a change to group numbers and requires a report on the recalculation of the proportional representation arrangements to the first available Council meeting in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 1.3 The revised calculations in relation to numbers from 1 to 20 are attached at Appendix A for information. Details of the effect of these calculations in respect of the current decision-making structure and agreed groupings of committees are set out in paragraph 2 below.
- 1.4 Members are requested to approve the calculation in order to enable adjustments to be made to appointments to committees to reflect the revised make-up of the Council.

#### **2.0 Calculations**

##### **2.1 Compilation of the Council**

Labour	24
Conservative	15
Independents	10
Green	8
Free Independents	2
Non-aligned independent	<u>1</u>
	60

## 2.2 Overview and Scrutiny

The PR calculations for a single 9 Member Committee remain unchanged at 4:2:2:1:0. The overall grouping of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Budget and Performance Panel also remains unchanged as:-

2 x 9 Members = 18 (-:- 60) = 0.3 seats per Member

L	24	x 0.3	=	7.2	=	7
C	15	x 0.3	=	4.5	=	5
I	10	x 0.3	=	3.0	=	3
G	8	x 0.3	=	2.4	=	2
FI	2	x 0.3	=	0.6	=	1
NAI	1	x 0.3	=	0.3	=	<u>0</u>
						<b>18</b>

The adjustment made by Council on 23 May 2011, whereby the Labour Group gave up a place on the Budget and Performance Panel to the Conservative Group and the Independent group gave up a place on the Panel to the Free Independent Group, should therefore remain in place.

## 2.3 Regulatory and Standing Committees of Council Grouping

The PR calculations for the individual Committees are shown below:

### a) 20 Members (Planning and Highways Regulatory)

L	24	(x20/60)	=	8	=	8
C	15	(x20/60)	=	5	=	5
I	10	(x20/60)	=	3.3333	=	3
G	8	(x20/60)	=	2.6666	=	3
FI	2	(x20/60)	=	0.6666	=	1
NAI	1	(x20/60)	=	0.3333	=	<u>0</u>
						<b>20</b>

### b) 15 Members (Licensing Act)

L	24	(x15/60)	=	6	=	6
C	15	(x15/60)	=	3.75	=	4
I	10	(x15/60)	=	2.5	=	2
G	8	(x15/60)	=	2	=	2
FI	2	(x15/60)	=	0.6666	=	1
NAI	1	(x15/60)	=	0.25	=	<u>0</u>
						<b>15</b>

### c) 9 Members (Licensing Regulatory)

L	24	(x9/60)	=	3.6	=	4
C	15	(x9/60)	=	2.25	=	2
I	10	(x9/60)	=	1.5	=	2
G	8	(x9/60)	=	1.2	=	1

FI	2	(x9/60)	=	0.3	=	0
NAI	1	(x9/60)	=	0.15	=	<u>0</u>
						<b>9</b>

d) 7 Members x2 (Personnel and Audit)

L	24	(x7/60)	=	2.8	=	3
C	15	(x7/60)	=	1.75	=	2
I	10	(x7/60)	=	1.1666	=	1
G	8	(x7/60)	=	0.9333	=	1
FI	2	(x7/60)	=	0.2333	=	0
NAI	1	(x7/60)	=	0.1166	=	<u>0</u>
						<b>7</b>

The total seats to be allocated for the grouping comprising Planning and Highways Regulatory, Licensing Act, Licensing Regulatory, Personnel and Audit Committees is as follows:

20+15+9+7+7=58 (-:- 60) = 0.9666 seats per Member.

L	24	x 0.9666	=	23.1984	=	23
C	15	x 0.9666	=	14.499	=	14
I	10	x 0.9666	=	9.666	=	10
G	8	x 0.9666	=	7.7328	=	8
FI	2	x 0.9666	=	1.9332	=	2
NAI	1	x 0.9666	=	0.9666	=	<u>1</u>
						<b>58</b>

This is a change from 23:15:10:8:2 to 23:14:10:8:2:1 i.e. the Conservative group must pass one seat from the above grouping to the non-aligned independent Member. The Labour group also owe one seat from this grouping to the Independent group, as is explained further in 2.4 below.

## 2.4 Erratum – Regulatory and Standing Committees Grouping

In compiling the figures for this report, a typing error on one page of the calculations approved by Council on 23 May 2011, has come to light. The page is appended to this report for reference and the error is in the last sentence. The words “Free Independent group” should have read “Independent group” and this resulted in a seat on the Licensing Act Committee being wrongly apportioned to the Free Independent group. The calculations above the mistake illustrate that the adjustment required should, in fact, have been for Labour to lose 1 seat and the Independents to gain 1 seat. To correct this error, the Free Independent group is asked to relinquish one of its seats on the Licensing Act Committee to the Independent Group.

The Independent Group is therefore asked to make a further nomination to the Licensing Act Committee, to increase its Membership of that Committee from two to three Members.

## 2.5 Other Standing Committees

Remaining Standing Committees currently constituted with a PR of 7 are the Appeals, Council Business and Standards Committees. The PR calculation is

now 3:2:1:1:0:0 and does not require any changes of membership.

The Appraisal Panel is a Member Panel (not a formal committee) of seven Members appointed on a PR basis to fulfil the Council's obligations under its contract of employment with the Chief Executive. The PR calculation for the Panel is now 3:2:1:1:0:0 and does not require any changes of membership.

### **3.0 Conclusion**

Members are requested to approve the calculations, in order to enable appointments to be made to the grouping of Regulatory and Standing Committees.

<b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b> <b>(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)</b>
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There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
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This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 and Part 4 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
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The reduction in numbers within the Conservative Group has led to a corresponding reduction in the special responsibility allowance to the Leader of the Opposition Group, so has created a small saving for the remainder of 2011/12 (approximately £65).

<b>OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Human Resources; Information Services; Property and Open Spaces:** None.

<b>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b>
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The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

<b>MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b>
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The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Debbie Chambers <b>Telephone:</b> 01524 58 <b>E-mail:</b> dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk <b>Ref:</b>
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Proportional Representation calculation file.

**P.R. LIST**

		<b>Lab</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Indep</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Free Indep</b>	<b>Non – aligned Indep</b>
1	=	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	=	1	1	0	0	0	0
3	=	1	1	1	0	0	0
4	=	2	1	1	0	0	0
5	=	2	1	1	1	0	0
6	=	2	2	1	1	0	0
7	=	3	2	1	1	0	0
8	=	4	2	1	1	0	0
9	=	4	2	2	1	0	0
10	=	4	3	2	1	0	0
11	=	4	3	2	2	0	0
12	=	5	3	2	2	0	0
13	=	5	3	2	2	1	0
14	=	6	3	2	2	1	0
15	=	6	4	2	2	1	0
16	=	6	4	3	2	1	0
17	=	7	4	3	2	1	0
18	=	7	5	3	2	1	0
19	=	8	5	3	2	1	0
20	=	8	5	3	3	1	0

Labour	24
Conservative	15
Independent	10
Green	8
Free Independent	2
Non-aligned Independent	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>

As at 25 July 2011

**(Extract from the Allocation of Seats to Political Groups report 23 May 2011)**

## Regulatory and Standing Committees of Council Grouping

5.3.1 The PR Calculation for individual 20 Member (Planning & Highways Regulatory), 15 Member (Licensing Act), 9 Member (Licensing Regulatory and 7 Member x 2 (Personnel and Audit) Committees is as follows:

## i) 20 Member

L	24	( x 20/60)	=	8	=	8
C	16	( x 20/60)	=	5.3333	=	5
I	10	( x 20/60)	=	3.3333	=	3
G	8	( x 20/60)	=	2.6666	=	3
FI	2	( x 20/60)	=	0.6666	=	1
						<hr/>
						20

## ii) 15 Member

L	24	( x 15/60)	=	6	=	6
C	16	( x 15/60)	=	4	=	4
I	10	( x 15/60)	=	2.5	=	2
G	8	( x 15/60)	=	2	=	2
FI	2	( x 15/60)	=	0.5	=	1
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						15

## iii) 9 Member

L	24	( x 9/60)	=	3.6	=	4
C	16	( x 9/60)	=	2.4	=	2
I	10	( x 9/60)	=	1.5	=	2
G	8	( x 9/60)	=	1.2	=	1
FI	2	( x 9/60)	=	0.3	=	0
						<hr/>
						9

## iv) 7 Member (x2)

L	24	( x 7/60)	=	2.8	=	3
C	16	( x 7/60)	=	1.8666	=	2
I	10	( x 7/60)	=	1.1666	=	1
G	8	( x 7/60)	=	0.9333	=	1
FI	2	( x 7/60)	=	0.2333	=	0
						<hr/>
						7

## 5.3.2 Total seats to be allocated per Group

20 + 15 + 9 + 7 + 7 = 58 ( :- 60) = 0.9666 seats per member

L	24	x 0. 9666	=	23.1984	=	23
C	16	x 0. 9666	=	15.4656	=	15
I	10	x 0. 9666	=	9.666	=	10
G	8	x 0. 9666	=	7.7328	=	8
FI	2	x 0. 9666	=	1.9332	=	2
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						58

## 5.3.3 Adjustments required:

Labour lose 1 seat and the Free Independent Group gain 1 seat.