

Allocation of Seats to Political Groups 3 February 2016

Report of Chief Executive

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 a Member's change of political affiliation.

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 Appendices B and C of the report.**
- (2) That the Green Group inform Council of the names of their members to be removed from the Budget and Performance Panel and the Licensing Regulatory Committee, and that the Labour Group inform Council of the names of their members to be appointed to those bodies (as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report).**
- (3) That the Green Party appoints to its vacant place on the Council Business Committee and appoints a substitute member for each of the Budget and Performance Panel and the Licensing Regulatory Committee.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Councillor Sam Armstrong changed his political affiliation from the Green Group to the Labour Group on 21 January 2016. This causes a change to the political composition of the council 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.
- 1.2 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 Adjustments Required to Committees

- 2.1 The political composition of the Council is now as shown below:-

Labour	30
Conservatives	19
Green	8
Independent	2
Free Independent	1
	<hr/>
	60
	<hr/>

2.2 Various appendices give full details of the calculations: **Appendix A** shows the methodology of Council's agreed calculation of PR; the revised calculations in relation to numbers from 1 to 20 are attached at **Appendix B**; **Appendix C** gives the grouping calculations used in this report, and **Appendix D** shows the list of committee Members prior to this recent change.

3.0 Required Adjustments

3.1 Two adjustments are required, as follows:-

- For the Overview and Scrutiny grouping, the Labour Group gain a seat on the Budget and Performance Panel from the Green Group*
- For the Regulatory and Standing Committees of Council Grouping, the Labour Group gain a seat on the Licensing Regulatory Committee from the Green Group*.

* the Budget and Performance Panel and the Licensing Regulatory Committee are specified for these adjustments because the Green Group should have a place on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Budget and Performance Panel so must give up their extra place, which is on the Budget and Performance Panel. The Green Group's extra place on the Regulatory and Standing Committees of Council grouping is on the Licensing Regulatory Committee, so that is the place that must be given up.

4.0 Green Party Vacancies

4.1 Councillor Armstrong was the Green group member on Council Business Committee and a substitute member on the Budget and Performance Panel and Licensing Regulatory Committee. The Green group is asked to make new appointments to those places now vacant.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Members are requested to approve the calculations and the adjustments required as set out in paragraph 2.3 and 3.1 of this report, in order to enable the required changes to appointments to be made at this meeting.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers
Telephone: 01524 582057
E-mail: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk

METHOD OF CALCULATION

- 1 The following is provided as a reminder for Members of the method used to calculate proportional representation (PR) at Lancaster City Council:-
- 2 At its meeting on 11th May 2006 Council agreed the following protocol and groupings for the calculation of PR on the Council's Cabinet*, Overview & Scrutiny and Committees:
 - (i) the calculation be undertaken using 4 decimal places;
 - (ii) the allocation of a final seat to a Group with the same residual be to the largest under-represented Group provided that this does not result in the largest over-representation; and
 - (iii) In the event that the foregoing rules do not resolve the situation, either because of a tie, or because the allocation would result in the largest over-representation, the seat be allocated by drawing lots under the supervision of the Mayor.
 - (iv) the calculation should be undertaken in relation to the following groupings:
 - Overview and Scrutiny (2 x 9)
 - Regulatory and other timetabled Committees (1 x 20(Planning)*, 1 x 15 (Licensing Act), 1 x 9 (Licensing Regulatory) and 2 x 7 (Personnel and Audit)
 - Remaining Standing and Joint Committees to be calculated separately and individually.

**The Cabinet is no longer a PR Cabinet, and the composition of the Planning Committee has since reduced to 15 Members.*

PR CALCULATION

		Labour	Conservative	Green	Independent	Free Independent
1	=	1	0	0	0	0
2	=	1	1	0	0	0
3	=	2	1	0	0	0
4	=	2	1	1	0	0
5	=	2	2	1	0	0
6	=	3	2	1	0	0
7	=	4	2	1	0	0
8	=	4	3	1	0	0
9	=	5	3	1	0	0
10	=	5	4	1	0	0
11	=	6	4	1	0	0
12	=	6	4	2	0	0
13	=	7	4	2	0	0
14	=	7	4	2	1	0
15	=	7	5	2	1	0
16	=	8	5	2	1	0
17	=	9	5	2	1	0
18	=	9	6	2	1	0
19	=	9	6	3	1	0
20	=	10	6	3	1	0

Labour	30
Conservative	19
Green	8
Independent	2
Free Independent	1
TOTAL	60

As at 21 January 2016

COMMITTEE GROUPING CALCULATIONS

1 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY GROUPING

The PR Calculation for a single 9 Member Committee is 5:3:1:0:0 and the grouping of Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Budget & Performance Panel is as follows:-

$9 + 9 = 18$ ($\therefore 60$) = 0.3 seats per Member.

L	30	x 0.3	=	9.0	=	9
C	19	x 0.3	=	5.7	=	6
G	8	x 0.3	=	2.4	=	2
I	2	x 0.3	=	0.6	=	1
FI	1	x 0.3	=	0.3	=	<u>0</u>
						18

2 REGULATORY AND STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL GROUPING

The PR calculation for 15 Member Committees (Planning and Highways Regulatory and Licensing Act) is 7:5:2:1:0. The 9 Member Licensing Regulatory Committee is 5:3:1:0:0 and the 7 Member Committee calculation (for Personnel and Audit) is 4:2:1:0:0. The total seats to be allocated for the grouping comprising Planning and Highways Regulatory, Licensing Act, Licensing Regulatory, Personnel and Audit Committees is:-

$15 + 15 + 9 + 7 + 7 = 53$ ($\therefore 60$) = 0.8833 seats per Member.

L	30	x 0.8833	=	26.4990	=	26
C	19	x 0.8833	=	16.7827	=	17
G	8	x 0.8833	=	7.0664	=	7
I	2	x 0.8833	=	1.7666	=	2
FI	1	x 0.8833	=	0.8833	=	1
						<u>53</u>

3 OTHER COMMITTEES/PANELS

Remaining Standing Committees currently constituted with a PR of 7 are the Appeals, Council Business and Standards Committees. The PR calculation for these is unchanged at 4:2:1:0:0.

The Appraisal Panel is a member panel of seven members appointed on a PR basis, although not a formal Committee of Council. The PR calculation for the Panel is unchanged at 4:2:1:0:0.

Council has established an ad hoc Committee to deal with the recruitment of a new Chief Executive. This is a PR Committee of 20 Members. The PR calculation for the Committee is unchanged at 10:6:3:1:0.