

Allocation of Seats to Political Groups 19 July 2017

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 notification of a change to the political groupings.

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 adjustments required to the Groupings of committees, detailed in paragraph 3 and Appendix C of the report, be approved.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Members will be aware that Councillor Andrew Kay ceased to be a member of the Green Group on 12 June 2017 and has now joined the Labour Group. This has caused a change to the political grouping of Members, requiring this report on the recalculation of the proportional representation arrangements.
- 1.2 Members are requested to approve the calculation in order to make the necessary adjustments to both groupings of committees, which reflect the revised make-up of the Council.

2.0 Political Composition of the Council

- 2.1 Following the change, Membership of the council is made up as follows:

Labour	31
Conservatives	18
Green	7
Independent	2
Free Independent	1
Non-aligned Independent	1
	<hr/>
	60

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

3.0 Adjustments

3.1 There are adjustments necessary to both groupings.

3.2 Appendix C sets out the rationale for the adjustments necessary as a result of the calculation. In short, these are:

- **For the Overview and Scrutiny Grouping:** The Green Group should pass a seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Budget and Performance Panel to the Conservative Group.
- **For the Regulatory and Standing Committees Grouping:** The Green Group should pass a seat on one of the Committees to the Labour Group.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Members are requested to approve the calculations to enable the necessary adjustments set out in 3.2 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 comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Appendix A

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.*

Appendix B

PR CALCULATION

		Labour	Conservative	Green	Independent	Free Independent (Cllr Woodruff)	Non-aligned Independent (Cllr Scott)
1	=	1	-	-	-	-	-
2	=	1	1	-	-	-	-
3	=	2	1	-	-	-	-
4	=	2	1	1	-	-	-
5	=	3	1	1	-	-	-
6	=	3	2	1	-	-	-
7	=	4	2	1	-	-	-
8	=	4	3	1	-	-	-
9	=	5	3	1	-	-	-
10	=	5	3	1	1	-	-
11	=	6	3	1	1	-	-
12	=	6	4	1	1	-	-
13	=	7	4	1	1	-	-
14	=	7	4	2	1	-	-
15	=	8	4	2	1	-	-
16	=	8	5	2	1	-	-
17	=	9	5	2	1	-	-
18	=	9	6	2	1	-	-
19	=	10	6	2	1	-	-
20	=	10	6	3	1	-	-

Labour	31
Conservative	18
Green	7
Independent	2
Free Independent	1
Non-aligned Independent	1
 TOTAL	 60

As at 29 June 2017

COMMITTEE GROUPING CALCULATIONS

1 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY GROUPING

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

$9 + 9 = 18$ (-:- 60) = 0.3 seats per Member.

L	31	x 0.3	=	9.3	=	9
C	18	x 0.3	=	5.4	=	6
G	7	x 0.3	=	2.1	=	2
I	2	x 0.3	=	0.6	=	1
FI	1	x 0.3	=	0.3	=	0
NAI	1	x 0.3	=	0.3	=	0
						<u>=18</u>

At the May 2017 Council meeting, the grouping gave the Green Group three seats overall and the Conservative Group had five seats. The new calculation requires the Green Group to pass a seat on this grouping to the Conservative Group.

2 REGULATORY AND STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL GROUPING

The PR calculation for 15 Member Committees (Planning and Highways Regulatory and Licensing Act) is 8:4:2:1:0:0. The 9 Member Licensing Regulatory Committee is 5:3:1:0:0:0 and the 7 Member Committee calculation (for Personnel and Audit) is 4:2:1:0:0:0. The total seats to be allocated for the grouping comprising Planning and Highways Regulatory, Licensing Act, Licensing Regulatory, Personnel and Audit Committees is:-

$15 + 15 + 9 + 7 + 7 = 53$ (-:- 60) = 0.8833 seats per Member.

L	31	x 0.8833	=	27.3823	=	27
C	18	x 0.8833	=	15.8994	=	16
G	7	x 0.8833	=	6.1831	=	6
I	2	x 0.8833	=	1.766	=	2
FI	1	x 0.8833	=	0.8833	=	1
NAI	1	x 0.8833	=	0.8833	=	1
						<u>=53</u>

In May 2017, the calculation gave the Labour Group 26 seats over the grouping and the Green Group seven seats. The Green Group must therefore pass one seat on a Regulatory or Standing Committee of Council to the Labour Group.

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 4:2:1:0:0:0.

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 4:2:1:0:0:0.