



Allocation of Seats to Political Groups 27 July 2022 Report of the Head of Democratic Services

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 following a change to the political composition of the Council.

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 this report, including the adjustments set out in the table in 2.3 of the report.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A calculation of political composition is undertaken at each annual Council meeting to determine the political balance on the Council's committees. Re-calculations are made as and when the political make-up of the Council changes. The last calculation was made at the last Council meeting on 22 June 2022.
- 1.2 There have been several changes since the last Council meeting. On 24 June 2022, Democratic Services were informed that Councillors Anderton, Boyd-Power, Goodwin and Matthews had resigned from the Morecambe Bay Independent (MBI) group and formed a new group – the Bay Independent group. A by-election held on 21 July 2022 for Harbour Ward resulted in the election of Councillor Pattison for the Labour Group. Finally on 22 July Councillors Frea, Penny and Sinclair joined with the Green Group to form a new Green and Independent Group. Councillor Whearty, who had been aligned to the Eco-Socialist Group therefore became an independent councillor unaligned to any group and, as such, not included in the calculations for committee places.N

2.0 Change in Composition of the Council

- 2.1 The make-up of the Council is now:

Labour	16
Green and Independent Group	14
Conservative	9
MBIs	6
Independent Group	5
Liberal Democrats	4
Bay Independent Group	4
	58

There is also one vacant seat (Warton Ward) and one Councillor who is not aligned to any group.

2.2 The table below shows the changes required across all 78 committee seats based upon the revised political composition of the Council.

2.3 The figures for June were based upon a pro rata share of 78 seats across 59 Councillors using roundings (due to the vacant seat in Harbour Ward). The figures for July are based on a pro rata share of 78 seats across 58 councillors using roundings (due to the vacant seat in Warton Ward and one non-aligned independent Councillor).

3.0 Political Balance on Committees

3.1 If political balance was calculated separately on each committee the figure would be as set out below for each size of committee:-

3.2 15 Member Committee (Planning Regulatory)

Labour	16/58x15	4.1379	4
Green and Independents	14/58x15	3.6207	4
Conservatives	9/58x15	2.3276	2
MBIs	6/58x15	1.5517	2
Independent Group	5/58x15	1.2931	1
Liberal Democrats	4/58x15	1.0345	1
Bay Independents	4/58x15	1.0345	1
			15

10 Member Committee (Licensing)

Labour	16/58x10	2.7586	3
Green and Independents	14/58x10	2.4138	2
Conservatives	9/58x10	1.5517	1*
MBIs	6/58x10	1.0345	1
Independent Group	5/58x10	0.8621	1
Liberal Democrats	4/58x10	0.6897	1
Bay Independents	4/58x10	0.6897	1
			10

*Rounding up would result in 11 seats and there are only 10 available. As the group with the lowest residual, the Conservative group are rounded down to one seat.

9 Member Committees x 2 (Overview and Scrutiny, Budget and Performance)

Labour	16/58x9	2.4828	2
Green and Independents	14/58x9	2.1724	2
Conservatives	9/58x9	1.3966	1
MBIs	6/58x9	0.9310	1
Independent Group	5/58x9	0.7759	1
Liberal Democrats	4/58x9	0.6207	1
Bay Independents	4/58x9	0.6207	1

7 Member Committees x 5 (Personnel, Audit, CBC, Appeals, Standards)

Labour	16/58x7	1.9310	2
Green and Independents	14/58x7	1.6897	2
Conservatives	9/58x7	1.0862	1
MBIs	6/58x7	0.7241	1
Independent Group	5/58x7	0.6034	1
Liberal Democrats	4/58x7	0.4828	0
Bay Independents	4/58x7	0.4828	0

- 3.3 If all the Committees could be calculated individually, as shown above, the result for the 78 places would be:

Labour	21
Green and Independents	20
Conservatives	10
MBIs	10
Independent Group	9
Liberal Democrats	4
Bay Independents	4
TOTAL	78

- 3.4 However, the individual committee calculations are a guide only to the balanced composition of each committee. The calculation of the 78 committee places on all standing committees **must** be undertaken using rules A-E, set out in s. 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Those rules are explained in **Appendix A** and the aggregate calculation is as shown on the table below under the column "July 2022". The necessary adjustments are shown in the highlighted right-hand column of that same table.

	June 2022	Rounded	July 2022	Actual	Rounded	Change
Labour	15/59x78	20	16/58x78	21.5172	22	+2
Green	11/59x78	15	-	-	0	-15
Green and Independent	-	-	14/58x78	18.8276	+19	+19
Conservative	10/59x78	13	9/58x78	12.1034	12	-1
MBIs	10/58x78	13	6/58x78	8.0690	8	-5
Independent Group	5/59x78	7	5/58x78	6.7241	7	
ESIs	4/59x78	5	-	-	-	-5
Liberal Democrats	4/59x78	5	4/58x78	5.3793	5	
Bay Independents	-	-	4/58x78	5.3793	5	+5
	TOTAL	78	TOTAL		78	

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Members are requested to agree the new calculation so that the appropriate adjustments can be made following a change to the political composition of the Council.

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.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments

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.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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THE RULES

The main rules are set out in s. 15(5) LGHA, and they are to be applied sequentially. So Rule B cannot override Rule A; Rule C cannot override Rules A and B; and Rule D cannot override Rules A, B or C. An additional rule is set out in s. 16.

Rule A: all the seats on a committee or sub-committee may not be allocated to members of the same political Group. Note that this does not require that each political Group needs to be represented on each committee or sub-committee.

Rule B: where a majority of the members of Council are members of the same political Group, a majority of the seats on each committee and sub-committee must be allocated to that political Group. So, where there is a majority Group, it must be allocated a minimum of 2 seats on each committee or sub-committee of 3 members, 3 seats on each committee or sub-committee of 4 members, and so on. This means that, where a political Group enjoys a narrow majority on Council, that majority Group will be allocated significantly more seats than would result from simple proportionality. Incidentally, the combination of Rules A and B reinforces the point that the minimum size of a committee or sub-committee ought to be 3.

Rule C: deals with the aggregate of seats on all committees, taken together. [It does not apply to sub-committees, joint committees or outside bodies (see later)]. It provides that, subject to Rules A and B, the relationship between the total number of committee seats allocated to each Group and the total number of seats on all committees must, as near as possible, be the same as the relationship between the number of members of the Group as a proportion of the total number of members of Council. This is subject to Rules A and B.

Rule D: Having worked out how many committee seats are to be allocated to each political Group, Rule D then determines which committees those seats relate to. Rule D now says that, taking each committee separately, the seats on that committee must be allocated as close to proportionately as possible, without offending Rules A, B or C

There is also a "**Rule E**", inserted into s.16 by reg. 16(3), which provides that, where appointments to seats are to be made other than in accordance with Rules A to D (i.e. to seats which are not allocated to a political Group) then the Council or the committee must appoint members to those seats who are not members of a political Group. The exact wording is:

"(2A) Where appointments fall to be made to seats on a body to which section 15 applies otherwise than in accordance with a determination under that section, it shall be the duty of the authority or the committee, as the case may be, so to exercise their power to make appointments as to secure that the persons appointed to those seats are not members of any political Group."