

**Allocation of Seats to Political Groups  
23rd July 2008**

**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 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 submitted by Group Administrators at the meeting be approved.**

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Conservative Group have advised that with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008 Councillor Keith Sowden is no longer a member of that Group. Councillor Sowden has since stated his 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 the 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

Independents	16
Labour	13
Greens	12
Conservatives	11
Liberal Democrats	5
Non-aligned Independent (1)	1
Non-aligned Independent (2)	1
Non-aligned Independent (3)	1
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	60

### 2.2 Cabinet

2.2.1 The PR Calculation for a Cabinet comprising 10 Members is unchanged.

### 2.3 Overview & Scrutiny

2.3.1 The PR Calculation for a single 9 Member Committee remains unchanged. However the calculation for the grouping of Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Budget & Performance Panel is now as follows:

I:	16	( x 18/60)	=	4.8813	=	5
L:	13	( x 18/60)	=	3.9661	=	4
G:	12	( x 18/60)	=	3.6610	=	4
C:	11	( x 18/60)	=	3.3593	=	3
LD:	5	( x 18/60)	=	1.5254	=	2
FI (1):	1	( x 18/60)	=	0.3050	=	0
FI (2):	1	( x 18/60)	=	0.3050	=	0
FI (3):	1	( x 18/60)	=	0.3050	=	0
						<hr/>
						18

2.3.2 This is a change from the previous 5:4:4:4:1 resulting in a requirement for the Conservative Group to pass one seat on Budget & Performance Panel to the Liberal Democrat Group.

2.3.3 Whilst this is the most straightforward option, the correct PR could also be achieved by the Independent Group reducing their membership on Budget & Performance Panel to 2 and increasing Overview & Scrutiny Committee to 3, thereby allowing the Liberal Democrat Group to take a seat on Budget & Performance Panel and the Conservative Group to retain 2 seats on that Panel but reduce their membership on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to one. This is subject to negotiation between the Groups concerned.

### 2.4 Regulatory and Timetabled Committees of Council

2.4.1 The PR calculation for 15 Member Committees remains unchanged at 4:4:3:3:1 and for 7 Member Committees at 2:2:1:1:1.

2.4.2 However 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 + 7 + 7 + 7 = 56 ( :- 60) = 0.9333 seats per member

I:	16	x 0.9333	=	14.9328	=	15
L:	13	x 0.9333	=	12.1329	=	12
G:	12	x 0.9333	=	11.1996	=	11
C:	11	x 0.9333	=	10.2663	=	10
LD:	5	x 0.9333	=	4.6665	=	5
FI(1):	1	x 0.9333	=	0.9333	=	1
FI(2):	1	x 0.9333	=	0.9333	=	1
FI(3):	1	x 0.9333	=	0.9333	=	<u>1</u>
						56

2.4.3 This is a change from 15:12:11:11:5:1:1, to 15:12:11:10:5:1:1:1, i.e. the Conservative Group must pass one seat from the above Grouping to one of the non-aligned independents. Whilst the simplest 'transfer' would be the seat on Planning Committee which Councillor Sowden previously held as a Conservative Member, the Conservative Group are in fact over represented in terms of PR on the Audit Committee and they may wish to relinquish one of their two seats on this committee. It is for the Conservative Group to decide.

## 2.5 Other Standing Committees

2.5.1 Remaining Standing Committees currently constituted with a PR of 7 are the Appeals, Appraisal, Council Business and Standards Committees. The PR calculation remains unchanged at 2:2:1:1:1.

## 2.6 Joint Committees

2.6.1 The Lancashire Locals – Lancaster District Joint Committee has a PR of 10. The PR for this remains unchanged at 3:2:2:2:1.

## 3.0 Conclusion

3.1 Members are requested to approve the calculations and to accept any nominations for Committees made as a result of this re-calculation.

### 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 further 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 further comments.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Proportional Representation calculation file.  
Letter from the Conservative Group dated  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2008  
Email notification from Councillor Sowden  
dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

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## P.R. LIST

		Ind	Labour	Green	Cons	Lib Dem
1	=	1	0	0	0	0
2	=	1	1	0	0	0
3	=	1	1	1	0	0
4	=	1	1	1	1	0
5	=	1	1	1	1	1
6	=	2	1	1	1	1
7	=	2	2	1	1	1
<b>*8</b>	=	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
9	=	2	2	2	2	1
10	=	3	2	2	2	1
11	=	3	3	2	2	1
<b>*12</b>	=	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
13	=	3	3	3	3	1
14	=	4	3	3	3	1
15	=	4	4	3	3	1
16	=	4	4	3	3	2
<b>*17</b>	=	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>*18</b>	=	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
19	=	5	4	4	4	2
20	=	6	4	4	4	2

\*change in allocation since the last calculation was carried out

NB – change in order of Groups since the last published table

Independent	16
Labour	13
Green	12
Conservative	11
Liberal Democrats	5
Non-aligned Free Independent	1
Non-aligned Free Independent	1
Non-aligned Free Independent	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>