

**Allocation of Seats to Political Groups  
21 October 2015**

**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 death of a Councillor.

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 section 3 of the report.**
- (2) That the adjustments required to the Grouping of committees, detailed in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.5 of the report, be approved.**
- (3) That the Conservative group's changes to membership outlined in section 4, and any other changes that groups wish to make to their committee memberships, be approved.**

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 As Members are aware, Councillor Christopher Leadbetter sadly passed away on 26 September 2015. This causes a change to the number of Councillors 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 The revised calculations in relation to numbers from 1 to 20 are attached at **Appendix A** for information. Details of how the calculations are arrived at and the effect of these calculations in respect of the current decision-making structure and agreed groupings of committees are set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 below.
- 1.3 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 Method of Calculation

2.1 The following is provided as a reminder for Members of the method used to calculate proportional representation (PR) at Lancaster City Council:-

2.2 At its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 3.0 Calculations

### 3.1 Composition of the Council

Labour	29
Conservatives	18
Green	9
Independent	2
Free Independent	1
	<hr/>
	59
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### 3.2 Overview & Scrutiny

3.3 The PR Calculation for a single 9 Member Committee is 4:3:2:0:0 and the grouping of Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Budget & Performance Panel is as follows:-

$9 + 9 = 18$  (-:- 59) = 0.3050 seats per Member.

L	29 x 0.3050	=	8.845	=	9
C	18 x 0.3050	=	5.49	=	5
G	9 x 0.3050	=	2.745	=	3
I	2 x 0.3050	=	0.61	=	1
FI	1 x 0.3050	=	0.3050	=	0

The current membership of the grouping is 8 Labour; 6 Conservative; 3 Green and 1 Independent. Therefore an adjustment is required whereby the Conservative group pass

one place in this grouping to the Labour group. (A full list of Committee Memberships is provided at **Appendix B** for convenience.) This adjustment should be effected at this meeting

### 3.4 Regulatory and Standing Committees of Council Grouping

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

$15 + 15 + 9 + 7 + 7 = 53$  (-:- 59) = 0.8983 seats per Member.

L	29	x 0.8983	=	26.0507	=	26
C	18	x 0.8983	=	16.1694	=	16
G	9	x 0.8983	=	8.0847	=	8
I	2	x 0.8983	=	1.7966	=	2
FI	1	x 0.8983	=	0.8983	=	1

## 53

The current grouping is 25 Labour; 17 Conservative; 8 Green; 3 Independent and 1 Free Independent. This means that an adjustment is required whereby the Conservative Group must pass a place in this grouping to the Labour Group. This adjustment should be effected at this meeting.

### 3.6 Other Standing Committees

3.7 Remaining Standing Committees currently constituted with a PR of 7 are the Appeals, Council Business and Standards Committees. The PR calculation for these is still 4:2:1:0:0. No adjustments to membership are required.

### 3.8 Appraisal Panel

3.9 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 still 4:2:1:0:0. No adjustments to membership are required.

## 4.0 **Vacancies and Changes to Membership**

4.1 It is noted that the late Councillor Leadbetter was a member of the Licensing Act Committee and a substitute member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Subject to any adjustment under paragraph 3.5 above, the Conservative Group is requested to nominate members to fill those vacancies at this meeting. Democratic Services have also been given notice that the Conservative Group will be nominating Councillor Guilding to replace Councillor Goodrich on the Licensing Regulatory Committee.

## 5.0 **Conclusion**

5.1 Members are requested to approve the calculations and the adjustments required as set out in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.5 of this report, in order to enable the required change 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**

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## P.R. LIST

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

Labour	29
Conservative	18
Green	9
Independent	2
Free Independent	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>

As at October 2015