

## **Allocation of Seats to Political Groups 16 May 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 the recent by-elections in the Carnforth and Millhead and John O'Gaunt Wards and the resignation of a Member from the Labour 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 Appendices B and C of the report.**
- (2) That the adjustments required to the Grouping of committees, detailed in paragraph 3 and Appendix C of the report, be approved.**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 City Council by-elections were held in the Carnforth and Millhead and John O'Gaunt Wards on 5 May 2016. Councillor John Reynolds was elected to the Carnforth and Millhead Ward and Councillor Oscar Thynne was elected to the John O'Gaunt Ward. Both Councillors are Labour Group Members. On 19 April 2016, Councillor Liz Scott resigned from the Labour group and is now a non-aligned independent member. These events have caused a change to the number and political grouping of Members of the Council, requiring 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 make appointments to committees for 2016/17, which reflect the revised make-up of the Council.

#### **2.0 Political Composition of the Council**

- 2.1 Following the by-elections, the Council now has its full complement of 60 Members, with the PR balance as shown overleaf:-

Labour	30
Conservatives	18
Green	8
Independent	2
Free Independent	1
Non-aligned 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 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.

2.3 If groups submit nominations for committee membership to Democratic Services in advance of this meeting, those nominations will be circulated at the start of the meeting.

### 3.0 Adjustments

3.1 Appendix C sets out the adjustments necessary as a result of the calculation. The Labour Group will give up one seat in the overview and scrutiny grouping and there is a tie for that seat between the Conservative and Green Groups, making it necessary to draw lots for the final place. For the Regulatory and Standing Committees of Council grouping, Councillors Woodruff and Scott will gain one place each. One place will be given up by the Labour Group and the other will be given up by the Conservative group.

### 4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Members are requested to approve the calculations to enable appointments to committees 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 drafted this report in her role as Democratic Services Manager.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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### 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 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.*

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

Labour	30
Conservative	18
Green	8
Independent	2
Free Independent	1
Non-aligned Independent	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>

As at 16 May 2016

## 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	30	x 0.3	=	9	=	9
C	18	x 0.3	=	5.4	=	5
G	8	x 0.3	=	2.4	=	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

Using the PR calculation for two single 9 Member Committees, the Labour Group would have had 10 seats overall. The grouping gives the Labour Group 9 seats overall so the Labour Group “give up” one seat as a result of the grouping.

The Conservative Group would have had 6 seats overall using the PR calculation for two single 9 Member Committees. However, the grouping gives the Conservative Group 5.4 seats, making a tie for the final seat between the Conservative and the Green groups who have the same residual of .4. The final seat will therefore be allocated by drawing lots under the supervision of the Mayor.

The Independent Group will receive one seat on either the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Budget and Performance Panel, by arrangement with the other Groups.

### 2 REGULATORY AND STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL GROUPING

The PR calculation for 15 Member Committees (Planning and Highways Regulatory and Licensing Act) is 7:5:2:1:0:0. 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	30	x 0.8833	=	26.4990	=	26
C	18	x 0.8833	=	15.8994	=	16
G	8	x 0.8833	=	7.0664	=	7
I	2	x 0.8833	=	1.7666	=	2
FI	1	x 0.8833	=	0.8833	=	1
NAI	1	x 0.8833	=	0.8833	=	1

**53**

PR for this group of committees, if calculated on the basis of single committees, would give the Labour Group 27 Members and the Conservative Group 17 Members. However, when grouped, the Labour Group receive 26 seats and the Conservative Group receive 16 seats, requiring the Labour Group and the Conservative Group to “give up” one seat each in this grouping. Those seats will give Councillor Woodruff and Councillor Scott one seat each on whichever Committees the Labour and Conservatives Groups choose to “give up” a seat on.

### **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 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 4:2:1:0:0:0.