

**Allocation of Seats to Political Groups
1 February 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 a recent by-election.

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 Overview and Scrutiny Grouping of committees, detailed in paragraph 3 and Appendix C of the report, be approved.**
- (3) That the Conservative Group pass a place on either the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Budget and Performance Panel to the Green Group.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Members will be aware that a by-election was held on 8 December 2016 to elect a member to the seat left vacant by former Councillor Matt Mann in the University and Scotforth Rural Ward. Councillor Nathan Burns was appointed, a member of the Labour Group, and this 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 Members are requested to approve the calculation in order to make the necessary adjustments to the Overview and Scrutiny bodies, which reflect the revised make-up of the Council.

2.0 Political Composition of the Council

- 2.1 Following the by-election, the Council now has a 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
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2.2 Attached 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 The only adjustments necessary are to the Overview and Scrutiny grouping. The regulatory and other standing committee groupings are unchanged by the new calculation.

3.2 Appendix C sets out the detail behind the adjustments necessary as a result of the calculation. In short, the Conservative group will be required to give up a place on either the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Budget and Performance Panel to the Green Group. [This is because the figures for the Conservative and Green Groups are 5.4 and 2.4 respectively. As each group has the same residual, one Conservative place on the Overview and Scrutiny Grouping should go to the Green Group as the largest under-represented 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 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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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	=	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
TOTAL	60

As at 4 January 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	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 has been required to 'give up' one seat on the grouping to the Independent Group and that has not changed, (Councillor Ashworth sits on, and Chairs, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee). The current labour membership of 4 members on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and 5 members on the Budget and Performance Panel will remain unchanged.

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 allocation of the final seat in this grouping should be passed from the Conservative Group to the Green Group as the largest under represented group. The Conservative Group can choose to pass a seat on either body to the Green Group.

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

PR for this group of committees is unchanged. If calculated on the basis of single committees, the Labour Group would have 27 seats and the Conservative Group 17 seats. 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. The seats given away were: to Councillor Woodruff on Licensing Act Committee (from the Labour Group) and Councillor Scott on Audit Committee (from the Conservative 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.