

Allocation of Seats to Political Groups 15 November 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 two recent by-elections.

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 Groupings of committees, detailed in paragraph 3 and Appendix C of the report, be approved.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Members will be aware that two by-elections have recently been held for vacant seats, following resignations, in the Skerton West and Halton-with-Aughton wards of the City Council. The results have caused a change to the political grouping of Members, requiring this report on the recalculation of the proportional representation arrangements.
- 1.2 Members are requested to approve the calculation in order to make the necessary adjustments to both groupings of committees, which reflect the revised make-up of the Council.

2.0 Political Composition of the Council

- 2.1 Following the change, Membership of the council is made up as follows:

Labour	32
Conservatives	18
Green	7
Independent Group	2
Non-aligned Independent	1
	<hr/>
	60

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.

3.0 Adjustments

3.1 There are adjustments necessary to both groupings.

3.2 Appendix C sets out the rationale for the adjustments necessary as a result of the calculation. In short, these are:

- **For the Overview and Scrutiny Grouping:** The Conservative Group should pass a seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Budget and Performance Panel to the Labour Group.
- **For the Regulatory and Standing Committees Grouping:** The seat vacated by former Free Independent Group Councillor, Paul Woodruff, passes to the Labour 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)
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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 reviewed the report and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers Telephone: 01524 582057 E-mail: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk
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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 Group	Non-aligned Independent (Cllr Scott)
1	=	1	-	-	-	-
2	=	1	1	-	-	-
3	=	2	1	-	-	-
4	=	2	1	1	-	-
5	=	3	1	1	-	-
6	=	3	2	1	-	-
7	=	4	2	1	-	-
8	=	4	3	1	-	-
9	=	5	3	1	-	-
10	=	5	3	1	1	-
11	=	6	3	1	1	-
12	=	6	4	1	1	-
13	=	7	4	1	1	-
14	=	7	4	2	1	-
15	=	8	4	2	1	-
16	=	8	5	2	1	-
17	=	9	5	2	1	-
18	=	10	5	2	1	-
19	=	10	6	2	1	-
20	=	11	6	2	1	-

Labour	32
Conservative	18
Green	7
Independent Group	2
Non-aligned Independent	1
TOTAL	60

As at 29 September 2017

COMMITTEE GROUPING CALCULATIONS

1 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY GROUPING

The PR Calculation for a single 9 Member Committee is now 5:3:1:0:0 and the grouping of Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Budget & Performance Panel is as follows:-

$9 + 9 = 18$ (-:- 60) = 0.3 seats per Member.

Lab	32	x 0.3	=	9.6	=	10
Con	18	x 0.3	=	5.4	=	5
Green	7	x 0.3	=	2.1	=	2
Inde Group	2	x 0.3	=	0.6	=	1
NAI	1	x 0.3	=	0.3	=	0
						<u>=18</u>

At the July 2017 Council meeting, the grouping gave the Conservative Group six seats overall and the Labour Group had nine seats. The new calculation requires the Conservative Group to pass a seat on this grouping to the Labour Group.

2 REGULATORY AND STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL GROUPING

The PR calculation for 15 Member Committees (Planning and Highways Regulatory and Licensing Act) is now 8:4:2:1:0. The 9 Member Licensing Regulatory Committee is now 5:3:1:0:0 and the 7 Member Committee calculation (for Personnel and Audit) is now 4:2:1:0:0. 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.

Lab	32	x 0.8833	=	28.2656	=	28
Con	18	x 0.8833	=	15.8994	=	16
Green	7	x 0.8833	=	6.1831	=	6
Inde Group	2	x 0.8833	=	1.766	=	2
NAI	1	x 0.8833	=	0.8833	=	1
						<u>=53</u>

In May 2017, the calculation gave the Labour Group 27 seats over the grouping and the Free Independent (who has since resigned) 1 seat. The Labour Group will therefore take the seat on the Licensing Act Committee which was held by former Councillor Paul Woodruff.

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 now 4:2:1:0:0 and no adjustments are needed.

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 now 4:2:1:0:0 and no adjustment is needed.