

Allocation of Seats to Political Groups 18 July 2018

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 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.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On 17 May 2018, by-elections were held for two Members in the University and Scotforth West ward and one Member in the Skerton West ward of the City Council. As a result of these by-elections, the political composition of the Council has changed and this requires a new proportional representation (PR) calculation to be made and approved.
- 1.2 Members are requested to approve the calculations set out in this report and make the necessary adjustments to committees, to reflect the revised make-up of the Council.

2.0 Political Composition of the Council

- 2.1 The Council's political composition is set out below.

Labour	31
Conservatives	18
Green	7
Independent	2
Councillor Scott	1
Councillor Thynne	1
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	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 15 are attached at **Appendix B** and **Appendix C** gives the grouping calculations used in this report.

3.0 Adjustments

- 3.1 No adjustments are required at this meeting. The re-calculation has not affected the grouping of committees; it remains as set out in the report put before Council at the Annual meeting on 14 May 2018. The adjustments which were made at that meeting still stand.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Members are requested to approve the re-calculation after the recent by-elections.

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 further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has further comments.

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 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.*

PR CALCULATION

		Labour	Conservative	Green	Independent Group	Cllr Scott	Cllr Thynne
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	3	1	1	-	-
11	=	6	3	1	1	-	-
12	=	6	4	1	1	-	-
13	=	6	4	2	1	-	-
14	=	7	4	2	1	-	-
15	=	7	5	2	1	-	-

Labour	31
Conservative	18
Green	7
Independent Group	2
Councillor Scott	1
Councillor Thynne	1

TOTAL
60

As at 18 May 2018

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	31	x 0.3	=	9.3	=	9
C	18	x 0.3	=	5.4	=	6
G	7	x 0.3	=	2.1	=	2
I	2	x 0.3	=	0.6	=	1
Cllr Scott	1	x 0.3	=	0.3	=	0
Cllr Thynne	1	x 0.3	=	0.3	=	0

There is no change to this grouping since Annual Council on 14 May 2018, when, using the PR calculation for two single 9 Member Committees, the Labour Group would have had 10 seats overall and the Independent group would not have had a seat. The grouping gave the Labour Group 9 seats overall and the Independent Group 1 seat, so the Labour Group passed a seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Cllr Ashworth of the Independent Group as a result of the grouping. No further adjustments are required.

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 are:-

15 + 15 + 9 + 7 + 7 = 53 (-:- 60) = 0.8833 seats per Member.

L	31	x 0.8833	=	27.3823	=	27
C	18	x 0.8833	=	15.8994	=	16
G	7	x 0.8833	=	6.1831	=	6
I	2	x 0.8833	=	1.7666	=	2
Cllr Scott	1	x 0.8833	=	0.8833	=	1
Cllr Thynne	1	x 0.8833	=	0.8833	=	<u>1</u>
						53

There is no change to this grouping since Annual Council on 14 May 2018, when, on the basis of single committees, the PR calculation would have given the Labour Group 27 Members, the Conservative Group 17 Members. The Green Group 7 Members, the Independent Group 2 Members and the non-aligned independent Members (Councillors Scott and Thynne) would not receive a seat on any committee. However, when grouped, both the Labour Group and the Green Group were required to pass a seat in this grouping to one of the non-aligned independent Members. The Labour group passed a seat on the Audit Committee to Councillor Oscar Thynne and the Green Group passed a seat on the Licensing Act Committee to Councillor Liz Scott. No further adjustments are required.

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.