

**Allocation of Seats to Political Groups
14 November 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 a recent change to the number in the Conservative 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, in accordance with the calculations, the following adjustments to Committees are made at this meeting:
 - a) The Conservative Group to pass as seat on either the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Budget and Performance Panel to the Green Group;
 - b) The Labour Group to take back a seat on the Audit Committee from Councillor Thynne
 - c) The Conservative Group to pass two seats from the Regulatory and Standing Committee grouping; one to Councillor Thynne and one to Councillor Cooper.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On 20 September 2018, Councillor Brett Cooper resigned from the Conservative Group. As a result, 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	17
Green	7
Independent	2
Councillor Scott	1
Councillor Thynne	1
Councillor Cooper	1
	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 The adjustments required at this meeting are set out in recommendation (2) above and the detailed explanation is contained in Appendix C.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Members are requested to approve the re-calculation after the recent change to group numbers.

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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METHOD OF CALCULATION

APPENDIX A

- 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

APPENDIX B

		Labour	Conservative	Green	Independent Group	Cllr Scott	Cllr Thynne	Cllr Cooper
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	3	2	1	-	-	-
13	=	6	4	2	1	-	-	-
14	=	7	4	2	1	-	-	-
15	=	8	4	2	1	-	-	-

Labour	31
Conservative	17
Green	7
Independent Group	2
Councillor Scott	1
Councillor Thynne	1
Councillor Cooper	1

TOTAL **60**

As at 1 October 2018

COMMITTEE GROUPING CALCULATIONS

APPENDIX C

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	17	x 0.3	=	5.1	=	5
G	7	x 0.3	=	2.1	=	3
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
Cllr Cooper	1	x 0.3	=	0.3	=	0

There is a change to this grouping. Using the PR calculation for two single 9 Member Committees, the Labour Group would have had 10 seats overall, the Conservative Group 6 seats overall, the Green Group two seats overall and the Independent group would not have had a seat at all. The grouping gives the Labour Group 9 seats overall and the Conservative Group 5 seats. Under the last PR calculation, the Labour Group passed a seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Cllr Ashworth of the Independent Group and that still stands. Now, as a result of the new calculation, **the Conservative Group must pass a seat on either Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Budget and Performance Panel to the Green Group** (as you can see from the calculation above, both groups have the same residual and “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”).

2 REGULATORY AND STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL GROUPING

The PR calculation for 15 Member Committees (Planning and Highways Regulatory and Licensing Act) is 7:5:2:1:0:0:0. The 9 Member Licensing Regulatory Committee is 5:3:1:0:0:0:0 and the 7 Member Committee calculation (for Personnel and Audit) is 4:2:1:0:0:0:0. 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	17	x 0.8833	=	15.0161	=	15
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	=	1
Cllr Cooper	1	x 0.8833	=	0.8833	=	<u>1</u>
						53

There is a change to this grouping. 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, Thynne and Cooper) would not receive a seat on any committee.

However, when grouped, both the Conservative and Green Groups are required to pass seats in this grouping to the non-aligned independent Members. The Conservatives pass two seats, the Greens pass one seat. The Green group has already passed a seat on the Licensing Act Committee to Councillor Scott (under the last PR calculation) so that will still stand.

The Labour group passed a seat on the Audit Committee to Councillor Oscar Thynne under the previous calculation, so **the Labour Group will take back their seat on the Audit Committee and the Conservative group will give up two seats on this grouping; one to Councillor Thynne and one to Councillor Cooper.**

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.