

Allocation of Seats to Political Groups 20 May 2019

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Council of the calculations relating to the allocation of seats following the City Council Elections on 2 May 2019, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Council's agreed protocol.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That in undertaking the political balance calculations on the Council's Committees the Council's agreed method of calculation as set out in Appendix A be confirmed and the resulting balance as set out in section 4 be approved.**
- (2) That the political balance for the two Overview and Scrutiny bodies be calculated separately and individually.**
- (3) That pursuant to Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, the City Council allocates the seats on Committees and Overview & Scrutiny bodies in accordance with the calculations set out in this report.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, it is open to the Council to devise a scheme for ensuring political balance on the different bodies of the Council.
- 1.2 In effect this means that there is a choice between undertaking the political balance calculation separately for each Committee or combining the numbers on two or more Committees in the calculation to ensure a political balance across a group of Committees.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 10 April 2019 Council unanimously agreed a calculation for political balance on the Council's Committees (not including Overview and Scrutiny). That is shown at **Appendix A**.

3.0 Composition of the Council following the elections held on 2 May 2019.

3.1 The political make-up of the Council is:

Labour	21
Morecambe Bay Independents	14
Conservatives	12
Green	10
Liberal Democrats	3
	<hr/>
	60

4.0 Calculations for Committees

4.1 The Council currently has the following committees of Council:

Committee name:	Number of members:
Planning Regulatory	15
Licensing	10
Audit	7
Appeals	7
Standards	7
Council Business	7
Personnel	7

4.2 When each committee is calculated separately in accordance with the rules set out in part a) i and ii of **Appendix A**, the figures are as shown below:

Committee name:	Number of members:	Calculation
Planning Regulatory		
Labour	21	$x15 \div 60 = 5.2500$ (5)
Morecambe Bay Independents	14	$x15 \div 60 = 3.5000$ (4-1=3)
Conservative	12	$x15 \div 60 = 3.0000$ (3)
Green	10	$x15 \div 60 = 2.5000$ (3)
Liberal Democrats	3	$x15 \div 60 = 0.7500$ (1)
		Total of 16 - Subtract 1 place from MBIs: higher number of seats of the two parties with lowest residual
Licensing		
Labour	21	$x10 \div 60 = 3.5000$ (4-1=3)
Morecambe Bay Independents	14	$x10 \div 60 = 2.3333$ (2)
Conservative	12	$x10 \div 60 = 2.0000$ (2)
Green	10	$x10 \div 60 = 1.6667$ (2)
Liberal Democrats	3	$x10 \div 60 = 0.5000$ (1)
		Total of 11 - Subtract 1 place from Labour: higher number of seats of the two parties with lowest residual

There are five committees listed below which each have seven members and the calculation below applies for each of these committees.

Audit, Personnel, Appeals, Standards and Council Business (5 Committees)

Labour	21	$x7 \div 60 =$	2.4500	(2+1=3)
Morecambe Bay Independents	14	$x7 \div 60 =$	1.6333	(2)
Conservative	12	$x7 \div 60 =$	1.4000	(1)
Green	10	$x7 \div 60 =$	1.1667	(1)
Liberal Democrats	3	$x7 \div 60 =$	0.3500	(0)
Total of 6 - Add 1 place to Labour: highest residual				

- 4.3 The table below provides an analysis of total seats calculated across the seven committees at paragraph 4.2 using the agreed methodology set on in **Appendix A**. This is then compared with the actual number of councillors in each group. The difference between these figures, shown in the last column, denotes the changes that will need to be made to establish a fair and proportionate political membership across the seven committees.

Group	Total seats calculated using political balance calculation	Political make-up	Difference
Labour	23	21	-2
Morecambe Bay Independents	15	14	-1
Conservative	10	12	+2
Green	10	10	
Liberal Democrats	2	3	+1

- 4.4 In order to establish a political balance in the membership of the seven committees, the Labour Group will have to give up 2 seats and Morecambe Bay Independents Group 1 seat. The Conservative Group will receive 2 additional seats and the Liberal Democrats Group 1 seat. It is anticipated that this process will occur via an agreement between all the Groups.

5.0 Calculations for Overview and Scrutiny

- 5.1 The Council has two Overview and Scrutiny bodies, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Budget and Performance Panel. Each body has nine members.

- 5.2 For each nine member body, the calculation is

Labour	21	$x9 \div 60 =$	3.1500	(3)
Morecambe Bay Independents	14	$x9 \div 60 =$	2.1000	(2)
Conservative	12	$x9 \div 60 =$	1.8000	(2)
Green	10	$x9 \div 60 =$	1.5000	(2)
Liberal Democrats	3	$x9 \div 60 =$	0.4500	(0)

- 5.3 Each body of nine members will be made up of three Labour group members and two members from each of the MBI, Conservative and Green group. The Liberal Democrat group will not receive any seats on either of the Overview and Scrutiny bodies.

6.0 Chief Executive Recruitment Committee

- 6.1 This is an *ad hoc* Committee of Council established to carry out the task of recruiting to, and making a recommendation to Council on the appointment of, a permanent Chief Executive. It is not included in the grouping of committees, because it is time-limited. Being a nine-member Committee it will be made up of three Labour Members, and two members from each of the MBI, Conservative and Green Groups.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 Members are requested to approve the calculations, in order to enable appointments to be made to the Committees of Council and the Overview and Scrutiny bodies, as set out in the remainder of the Agenda.

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.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

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.

DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has prepared this report in her role as Democratic Services Manager.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers Telephone: 01524 582057 E-mail: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk
--------------------------	--

Affiliation to Political Groups file.

**METHOD OF CALCULATION OF POLITICAL BALANCE AGREED BY
LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL 10 APRIL 2019**

- a.** For each committee and subcommittee individually, calculate the number of seats to be allocated to each political Group as follows:
- i. Multiply the number of committee seats by the number of councillors who belong to that political Group and divide by the total number of councillors. Keep four decimal places. Round to the nearest whole number (i.e. down if the residual is less than 0.5, up if the residual is 0.5 or more)
 - ii. Sum the calculated committee seats across political Groups. If this total is higher than the required number of seats, then subtract a seat from the Group with the lowest residual. In the case of a tie, subtract a seat from the political Group with the higher number of councillors. If the total is lower than the required number of seats, then add a seat to the Group with the highest residual. In the case of a tie, add a seat to the political Group with the higher number of councillors.
 - iii. In the event that the foregoing rules do not resolve the situation, the seat to be subtracted or added should be decided by drawing lots under the supervision of the Mayor.
- b.** Repeat the calculations in a. above for the following grouping of committees, which will give 60 committee seats in total.
- 1x15 (Planning)
1x10 (Licensing)
5x7 (Personnel, Audit, Appeals, Standards, Business)
- c.** For the committees specified in b. above, the calculation of seats for the grouping of committees takes precedence over the calculations for each individual committee. Consistent with the allocations obtained from b. above, the number of seats on the individual committees should be allocated as closely as possible to those calculated in a. above. Seats may need to be passed from one Group to another on one or more of the individual committees. The political Groups who need to pass seats to other Groups should choose which committee seats to pass on.