

Council Meeting

Meeting Date	20 September 2017
Report Title	Political Balance and Appointments to Committees
Portfolio Holder	Leader
SMT Lead	Chief Executive
Lead Officer	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open

Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Council is asked to agree the political balance calculation as set out in Appendix I.2. The Council is asked to note the changes to the appointment of Members to Committees, as advised by Group Leaders.
-----------------------	--

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires Local Authorities to review the allocation of seats on committees following any change in the composition of the Council. A recalculation is required following the By-election on 3 August 2017. Once the Council has agreed the allocation of Committee places between the political groups the Council must then appoint the nominees of the political groups to the committees.

2 Background

- 2.1 Political groups on the Council are formed in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 when 2 or more Councillors must notify the Proper Officer of their wish to be treated as a group.

The following principles apply to the allocation of seats:

- That not all seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;
- That the majority of seats on each Committee is allocated to a particular group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
- Subject to (a) and (b), that, when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council, must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership; and
- Subject to (a) and (c), that the number of seats on each committee is as

far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.

Sub-committees are also governed by the political balance rules, but it is not necessary to add up all the sub-committee seats and then allocate them in proportion. As far as this is predictable, the allocation of seats on each sub-committee should reflect the proportional representation of the political groups on the Council.

- 2.3 Each of the political groups are entitled to a certain number of seats on committees. This is based on their percentage representation on the Council as a whole, as detailed in Appendix I. This is then required to be manually adjusted to ensure that the number of seats allocated to a particular group matches and does not exceed their entitlement.
- 2.4 To achieve overall balance, the UKIP Group need to gift a seat to the Independent Group. Following discussions between the respective Group Leaders, we have been advised by the Leader of UKIP Group that this will be on the Policy Development and Review Committee.
- 2.5 To date, the Labour Group has advised of the following changes to committee membership, as a result of the revised political balance.

Policy Development and Review Committee - Councillor Harrison will be replaced by Councillor Tony Winckless

Licensing 2003 Committee – additional seat will be taken by Councillor Tony Winckless

Planning Committee – additional seat will be taken by Councillor Harrison.

Other changes will be advised at the meeting by the respective Group Leaders.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 The Council is asked to agree the revised political balance calculation for the remainder of the civic year 2017/18.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Council can decide to change the number and size of Committees; however, this will have an impact on the number of seats available on the Council and will therefore require the political balance to be re-calculated to reflect this. Members are encouraged to make Officers aware in advance of the meeting of any proposals of this nature.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 All Group Leaders have been made aware of this report and have been asked to advise Democratic Services of their nominations to seats on Committees for their

respective Groups. This information will be circulated to Members after the Council meeting and added to the Council's website.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	A Council to be proud of.
Financial, Resource and Property	The cost of servicing the Council's committees will be met within existing budgets. The establishment of any additional Committees would have financial and human resource implications.
Legal and Statutory	The relevant legislation has been included in the body of the report.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- Appendix I: Political Balance Calculation 2017/18

8 Background Papers

None.

Political Balance Calculations August 2017

Party Group		Conservative		UKIP		Labour		Independent		Total
Number of Members		32		8		5		2		47
Overall proportionality		0.680851064		0.170212766		0.106382979		0.042553191		1
Total entitlement		68.76595745		17.19148936		10.74468085		4.29787234		101
Total rounded entitlement		69		17		11		4		101
Committees	Size	Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement		
Planning	17	11.57446809	11	2.893617021	3	1.808510638	2	0.723404255	1	17
General Licensing	10	6.808510638	7	1.70212766	2	1.063829787	1	0.425531915	0	10
Policy Development and Review	11	7.489361702	8	1.872340426	2	1.170212766	1	0.468085106	0	11
Scrutiny	13	8.85106383	9	2.212765957	2	1.382978723	1	0.553191489	1	13
Audit	9	6.127659574	6	1.531914894	2	0.957446809	1	0.382978723	0	9
General Purposes	9	6.127659574	6	1.531914894	2	0.957446809	1	0.382978723	0	9
Emergency	6	4.085106383	4	1.021276596	1	0.638297872	1	0.255319149	0	6
Standards	11	7.489361702	8	1.872340426	2	1.170212766	1	0.468085106	0	11
Licensing Act 2003	15	10.21276596	10	2.553191489	2	1.595744681	2	0.638297872	1	15
			69		18		11		3	
Total Seats	101	68.76595745	69	17.19148936	17	10.74468085	11	4.29787234	4	
				18				3		

To achieve overall balance, UKIP need to gift a seat to the independent group. This will be on the Policy Development and Review Committee.