



Report Reference Number: C/20/6

To: Council
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Ward(s) Affected: All
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Title: Allocation of Committee Places

Summary:

The establishment of Committees, the allocation of seats to political groups and the appointment of Members to serve on Committees is a matter for decision by the Council.

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities to allocate committee seats to political groups. The circumstances in which a review of the allocation of Committee seats must take place is prescribed in Section 17 of The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. Due to the recent political changes and the resignation of a Councillor, a review of the allocation of Committee places has taken place.

Recommendations:

- i) To confirm one of the following options concerning the Planning Committee:**
 - 1) That the remaining seat on the Planning Committee be left unallocated, or**
 - 2) To allocate the seat outside the political balance rules to another Member provided that no Member votes against the proposal.**
- ii) To agree the allocation of Committee places as outlined at Appendix A.**

Reasons for recommendation

To meet legislative requirements and to enable the proper functioning of the Council in the 2020/21 municipal year.

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The decision regarding the establishment of Committees, the allocation of seats to political groups and the appointment of Members to serve on Committees is usually taken at Annual Council.
- 1.2 Due to Covid-19, the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 allowed local authorities to not hold annual meetings and carry forward memberships of Committees to the next municipal year.
- 1.3 Due to the recent political changes and the resignation of a Councillor, a review of the allocation of Committee places has taken place.

2. Review of Allocation of Committee Places

- 2.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a duty on the Council to allocate seats on Ordinary Committees of the Council between the political groups in accordance with the following principles :-
 - a) That not all the seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;
 - b) That the majority of seats on each committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - c) That subject to (a) and (b), 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
 - d) Subject to (a) to (c), that the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.
- 2.2 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that, once the Council has determined the allocation of committee places between the political groups, the Council must then appoint the nominees of the political groups to the committees.
- 2.3 For the purpose of this process there are three political groups making up the Council; the Conservative Group, the Labour Group and the Independent Group. A group consists of two or more members of Council who have indicated that they wish to be treated as a group. Councillors that are not members of political groups have no entitlement to an allocation of seats on

Committees. Political groups are entitled to their proportion of seats and once their entitlement has been reached, any remaining seats may be filled by Councillors not belonging to a political group.

- 2.4 A review of the allocation of Committee Places has taken place due to the political changes at the Council and the resignation of a Councillor. Councillors Ellie Jordan and Mike Jordan have moved to the Conservative Group from the Yorkshire Party. Councillor Paul Welburn has resigned from the Council therefore the Council is currently carrying a vacancy.
- 2.5 Following the recalculation, the allocation of Committee places is allocated below (changes from the previous allocation have been highlighted by the ‘+’ icon:

Committee	Total Seats	Conservative	Labour	Independent	Ungrouped
Audit and Governance	8	5 (+1)	2	(+1)	0
Policy Review	8	5 (+1)	2	1	0
Scrutiny	8	5 (+1)	2	1	0
Planning	9	5	2	1	1 (+1)
Licensing	10	6 (+1)	3	1	0

- 2.6 Places have been allocated depending on the rounding up of seats after the calculation between the political balance of the Council and how this is broken down to the number of places for each Committee. With regard to the Planning Committee, due to each political group not having achieved enough of a figure to be awarded a seat after calculation, this seat is offered to any ungrouped members.
- 2.7 Having been offered the seat on the Planning Committee, the ungrouped Member, Councillor Brook has declined the place therefore it remains unallocated in accordance with the political balance rules. Council has the option of allocating the seat outside the political balance rules to another Member provided that no Member votes against the proposal.
- 2.8 The allocation for all other seats is attached at Appendix A.

3. Implications

3.1 Legal Implications

The relevant pieces of legislation are The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulation 1990.

3.2 Financial Implications

Councillors are entitled to claim for travel expenses incurred when attending meetings physically.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Council is asked to consider the proposals outlined in the report concerning allocation of Committee Places

5. Background Documents

None

6. Appendices

Appendix A – Allocation of Committee Places (to follow)

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