



Report Reference Number: C/22/2

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**To:** Council  
**Date:** 19 April 2022  
**Author:** Victoria Foreman, Democratic Services Officer  
**Lead Officer:** Janet Waggott, Chief Executive  
**Executive Member:** Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council

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**Title: Recalculation of Political Proportionality of the Council and the Appointment of Councillors to Committees for the 2022-23 Municipal Year**

**Summary:**

This report provides details of the recalculation of political proportionality of the Council following recent changes to a political group, and the group nominations for the appointment of Councillors to Committees, as outlined in Appendix A (to follow) for the 2022-23 municipal year.

**Recommendations:**

- 1. To note the changes to the membership of political groups on the Council and the subsequent recalculation of political proportionality on the Council's Committees.**
- 2. To approve the group nominations for the appointment of Councillors to Committees as outlined at Appendix A (to follow) for the 2022-23 municipal year.**

**Reasons for recommendation**

To meet legislative requirements and to enable the proper functioning of the Council in the 2022-23 municipal year.

The Council are encouraged to have sight of any changes to political balance for transparency.

## 1. The Report

### Recalculation of Political Proportionality

- 1.1 The political balance of the Council was last confirmed at its meeting held on 19 April 2022, following the changes to political group membership.

At that meeting, the balance was:

Conservatives: 18  
Labour: 8  
Independent Group: 4  
Unaligned: 1

- 1.2 The political balance has been altered to the following:

Conservatives: 17  
Labour: 8  
Independent Group: 4  
Unaligned: 2

- 1.3 The changes to the membership of groups on the Council requires the recalculation of political proportionality for committee places. As a result of this change the Licensing Committee now has one seat for an unaligned member.

- 1.4 The changes to the seats are set out below:

#### Licensing Committee allocation of seats (following the recalculation)

Conservative: 6  
Labour: 3  
Independents and Yorkshire Party: 1  
Unaligned: 1

Total seats on Licensing Committee: 11

#### Planning Committee allocation of seats (following the recalculation)

Conservative: 5  
Labour: 2  
Independents and Yorkshire Party: 1  
Unaligned: 1

Total seats on Planning Committee: 9

- 1.5 Committee places on the Scrutiny, Audit and Governance and Policy Review Committees will stay the same.

## **Appointment of Councillors to Committees for 2022-23**

- 1.6 Each year Annual Council receives Group Leaders' nominations for appointments to Chairs and Vice Chairs and for the membership and substitutes for Council committees. The list of nominations for the Chairs, Vice Chairs and members and substitutes for Council committees for 2022-23 are attached at Appendix A (to follow).

## **2. Alternative Options Considered**

None - appointments to Council Committees are required to ensure Council business can be conducted legally.

## **3. Implications**

### **3.1 Legal Implications**

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.

- 3.2 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.

- 3.3 For the purpose of this process there are three political groups making up the Council: the Conservative Group, the Labour Group, the Independents and Yorkshire Party Group and two unaligned members. In order to meet the requirements of Section 15(c) the unaligned members are entitled to two seats. In order to meet the requirements of Section 15(b) and ensure that the majority party has the majority on each committee it is proposed those places be on Planning Committee and Licensing Committee. A group consists of two or more members of Council who have indicated that they wish to be treated as a group. 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.

### **3.2 Financial Implications**

Councillors are entitled to claim for travel expenses incurred when attending meetings physically, but there are no direct financial implications related to the change in political balance. The cost of servicing Committees will be met through the existing budgets.

### **4. Conclusion**

That the Council note the changes to the membership of political groups on the Council and the subsequent recalculation of political proportionality and approve the group nominations for the appointment of Councillors to Committees for the 2022-23 municipal year.

### **5. Background Documents**

None.

### **6. Appendices**

Appendix A - Proposed Membership of Council Committees for 2022-23 (to follow)

#### **Contact Details:**

Victoria Foreman  
Democratic Services Officer  
[vforeman@selby.gov.uk](mailto:vforeman@selby.gov.uk)