
CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARDS - 2015/16

To: **Council Meeting – 4 February 2016**

By: **Committee Services Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Wards Affected: **N/A**

Summary: This report informs Council of changes to nominations to Committees.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report will outline the changes needed as a result of the recent Newington Ward By-election which was needed as a result of the resignation of Councillor Munday.

2.0 Political Balance

2.1 As mentioned above Cllr Karen Constantine has been elected and become a member of the Labour Group. The changes to political balance are shown in the table below:

Political Group	Prior to changes	After changes
UKIP	26	26
Conservative	19	19
Democratic Independent Group	5	5
Labour	4	5
Independent	1	1

2.2 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to allocate seats on committees to political Groups in accordance with the size of each group on the Council as a whole and in accordance with the following principles which should be observed as far as is reasonably practicable:

- a) That not all seats on the same committee are allocated to the same political group;
- b) That the majority of the seats on a committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership;
- c) That, subject to a) and b) above, the number of seats on committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion of the total of all the seats on committees;

d) That, subject to a), b) and c) above, the number of seats on a committee allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all seats on that committee.

2.3 For the purposes of political balance a Group is required to have at least two members and to have been formally constituted as a political group before the meeting.

2.4 Democratic Services have contacted the four group Leaders and a consensus on a way to achieve proportionality has not been achieved and the options for achieving proportionality are outlined at paragraphs 2.5 to 2.8 below.

2.5 Option 1

2.5.1 That one additional seat is added to the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party and that seat is given to the Labour Group. In addition one seat is removed from the General Purposes Committee and as a result the UKIP group loses one of its seats on that Committee.

2.6 Option 2

2.6.1 That one additional seat is added to the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party and that seat is given to the Labour Group. In addition one seat is removed from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and as a result the UKIP group loses one of its seats on that Panel.

2.7 Option 3

2.7.1 That one additional seat is added to the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party and that seat is given to the Labour Group. In addition one seat is removed from the Governance and Audit Committee and as a result the UKIP group loses one of its seats on that Committee.

2.8 Option 4

2.8.1 That another solution that achieves proportionality is agreed. Note that if an alternative proposal is developed during the meeting, compliance with the proportionality rules would need to be verified by officers.

2.9 The table below show the change to numbers serving on Committees as a result of these proposals:

Committees	Total	UKIP Group	Conservative Group	Democratic Independent Group	Labour Group
Current Membership					
Planning Committee	13	6	5	1	1
Licensing Board	14	7	5	1	1
Overview and Scrutiny Panel	14	7	5	1	1
Gov. and Audit	14	7	5	1	1

General Purposes	10	5	3	1	1
B&EA Working Party	6	3	2	1	0
Constitutional Review Working Party	7	3	2	1	1
Totals	78	38	27	7	6
Committees	Total	UKIP Group	Conservative Group	Democratic Independent Group	Labour Group
Option 1					
Proposed membership					
Planning Committee	13	6	5	1	1
Licensing Board	15	7	6	1	1
Overview and Scrutiny Panel	14	7	5	1	1
Gov. and Audit	14	7	5	1	1
General Purposes	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	3	1	1
B&EA Working Party	<u>7</u>	3	2	1	<u>1</u>
Constitutional Review Working Party	6	2	1	1	1
Totals	78	<u>37</u>	27	7	<u>7</u>
Committees	Total	UKIP Group	Conservative Group	Democratic Independent Group	Labour Group
Option 2					
Proposed membership					
Planning Committee	13	6	5	1	1
Licensing Board	15	7	6	1	1
Overview and Scrutiny Panel	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	5	1	1
Gov. and Audit	14	7	5	1	1
General Purposes	10	5	3	1	1
B&EA Working Party	<u>7</u>	3	2	1	<u>1</u>
Constitutional Review Working Party	6	3	1	1	1
Totals	78	<u>37</u>	27	7	<u>7</u>
Committees	Total	UKIP Group	Conservative Group	Democratic Independent Group	Labour Group
Option 3					
Proposed membership					
Planning Committee	13	6	5	1	1
Licensing Board	15	7	6	1	1

Overview and Scrutiny Panel	14	7	5	1	1
Gov. and Audit	13	6	5	1	1
General Purposes	10	5	3	1	1
B&EA Working Party	7	3	2	1	1
Constitutional Review Working Party	6	3	1	1	1
Totals	78	37	27	7	7

2.10 The overall political balance calculations for the proposals are shown at Annexes 1-3 respectively.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 That Council agrees one of the proposals outlined at paragraphs 2.5 – 2.8 to achieve proportionality.

4.0 Nominations of Members to serve on Committees

4.1 Members are reminded that Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 states that where the Council has determined the allocation to different groups of the seats to which the Act applies, it shall be the duty of the authority to give effect to a Group's wishes about who is to be appointed to the seats that they have been allocated.

4.2 Therefore the corresponding amendments to group nominations as outlined below must also be made.

4.3 Option 1

4.3.1 The UKIP group will lose a seat on the General Purposes Committee and so will need to remove one UKIP Councillor from that Committee. The Labour Group will gain a seat on the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party and will need to make a new nomination to that group. In addition the UKIP group should replace Cllr Dawson on the Joint Transportation Board, as she is no longer part of their group and this was not corrected at the last Council meeting.

4.3.2 This can be summarised as:

Committee / Group	Current Position	New Position
General Purposes Committee		
UKIP Group	5 seats	4 seats (one Cllr to be removed)
Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party		
Labour Group	No entitlement	New nomination required
Joint Transportation Board		
UKIP Group	Cllr Dawson	New nomination required

4.4 Option 2

4.4.1 The UKIP group will lose a seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and will need to remove one UKIP Councillor from that Panel. The Labour Group will gain a seat on the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party and will need to make a new nomination to that group. In addition the UKIP group should replace Cllr Dawson on the Joint Transportation Board, as she is no longer part of their group and this was not corrected at the last Council meeting.

4.4.2 This can be summarised in the table below:

Committee / Group	Current Position	New Position
Overview and Scrutiny Panel		
UKIP Group	7 seats	6 seats (one Cllr to be removed)
Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party		
Labour Group	No entitlement	New nomination required
Joint Transportation Board		
UKIP Group	Cllr Dawson	New nomination required.

4.5 Option 3

4.5.1 The UKIP group will lose a seat on the Governance and Audit Committee and will need to remove one UKIP Councillor from that Committee. The Labour Group will gain a seat on the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party and will need to make a new nomination to that group. In addition the UKIP group should replace Cllr Dawson on the Joint Transportation Board, as she is no longer part of their group and this was not corrected at the last Council meeting.

4.5.2 This can be summarised in the table below:

Committee / Group	Current Position	New Position
Governance and Audit Committee		
UKIP Group	7 seats	6 seats (one Cllr to be removed)
Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party		
Labour Group	No entitlement	New nomination required
Joint Transportation Board		
UKIP Group	Cllr Dawson	New nomination required.

4.6 Option 4

4.6.1 If Council agrees its own solution to agree political proportionality then Council must note the relevant changes to group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards that correspond with those changes.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 To note the corresponding group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of 2015/16 as per paragraph 3.1 of this report (The names of those Councillors so nominated will be presented at the meeting if needed).

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 Financial

6.1.1 There are no direct financial implications.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 The composition and allocation of membership of committees has been based on the relevant legislative requirements.

6.3 Corporate

6.3.1 None.

6.4 Equity and Equalities

6.4.1 There are no specific equity and equality considerations that need to be addressed in this report.

7.0 Summary of Recommendations

3.1	That Council agrees one of the proposals outlined at paragraphs 2.5 – 2.8 to achieve proportionality.
5.1	To note the corresponding group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of 2015/16 as per paragraph 3.1 of this report (The names of those Councillors so nominated will be presented at the meeting if needed).

8.0 Decision Making Process

8.1 This report is for decision.

Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Reporting to:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance

Annex List

Annex 1	Proportionality calculations for main committees covered by Local Government & Housing Act 1989 Option 1
Annex 2	Proportionality calculations for main committees covered by Local Government & Housing Act 1989 Option 2
Annex 3	Proportionality calculations for main committees covered by Local Government & Housing Act 1989 Option 3

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Matthew Sanham, Finance Manager, Service Support
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance