

CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARDS – 2017/18

Council – 7 December 2017

Report Author	Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Derek Crow-Brown
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

This report will outline the changes needed to proportionality and committees as a result of the passing away of Cllr K Gregory.

Summary of Recommendation(s):

- 3.1 That Council agrees option 1 outlined at paragraphs 2.5 to achieve proportionality.
- 5.1 To note the corresponding group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of 2017/18 as per paragraph 3.1 of this report (The names of those Councillors so nominated will be presented at the meeting if needed).

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	There are no direct financial implications
Legal	The composition and allocation of membership of committees has been based on the relevant legislative requirements.
Corporate	There are no direct corporate implications
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	<p>Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p>

	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.	
	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	x
	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	x
	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	x

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
Delivering value for money	
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	✓

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report will outline the changes needed as a result of the passing away of Cllr K Gregory.

2.0 Political Balance

- 2.1 The changes to political balance as a result of the changes mentioned in paragraph 1.1 are shown in the table below:

Political Group	Prior to changes	After changes
UKIP	25	25
Conservative	21	<u>20</u>
Labour	6	6
Independent Group	2	2
Independent Councillors not in a group	2	2

- 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 consensus has been achieved, therefore one substantive option is being presented to this meeting. This is outlined at paragraph 2.5. However if Members wished to propose an alternative they can do under option 2 at paragraph 2.6, however compliance with the proportionality rules would need to be verified by officers, prior to it being adopted.

2.5 Option 1

2.5.1 That one seat is removed from the Licensing Board and the Conservative group loses that seat and one seat is removed from the Governance and Audit Committee and the Conservative group loses that seat.

2.6 Option 2

2.6.1 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.

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

Committees	Total	UKIP Group	Conservative Group	Labour Group	Independent Group
Option 1					
Planning Committee	16	7	6	2	1
Licensing Board	13	6	5	2	0
Overview and Scrutiny Panel	15	7	6	1	1
Gov. and Audit	14	7	5	1	1
General Purposes	10	5	4	1	0
B&EA Working Party	8	4	3	1	0
Constitutional Review Working Party	6	3	2	1	0
Totals	82	39	31	9	3

2.8 The overall political balance calculation for the proposal shown above is available at Annex 1 of this report.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 That Council agrees option 1 outlined at paragraphs 2.5 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 Conservative group will lose a seat on each of the Licensing Board and Governance and Audit Committee and so will have to remove a nominee from each of these committees.

4.3.2 This can be summarised as:

Committee / Group	Current Position	New Position
Licensing Board		
Conservative	6 seats	5 seats
Governance and Audit Committee		
Conservative	6 seats	5 seats
Governance and Audit Committee Reserves		
Conservative	6 seats	5 seats

4.4 Option 2

4.4.1 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 2017/18 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 Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

6.1 If there are any changes to group nominations that would mean subsequent changes to Chairmanships or Vice-Chairmanships, then Council would need to make new nominations to those positions.

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
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
<i>None</i>	

Corporate Consultation

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