



OPEN REPORT COUNCIL

Council – 28 November 2024

Membership of Political Groups, Political Balance Entitlement to Seats on Committees and Appointments

Report of Interim Director of Corporate and Customer Services (Monitoring Officer)

Report Author and Contact Details

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Wards Affected

District Wide

Report Summary

To report on the updated membership of political groups on the Council, the change to the political balance of the authority following the recent Calver and Longstone ward By-Election, and the revised Proportionality Table setting out the entitlement of political groups to seats on Committees for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year, and appointments made to be in consequence.

Recommendations

That the Council:

1. notes the revised composition of membership of the political groups on the Council.
2. Approves the revised Proportionality Table at Paragraph 2.2 of this report.
3. Approves the appointments set out at Paragraph 3 of this report.

List of Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Consideration of report by Council or other Committee

Not applicable

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from Press or Public

No

Report Title

1. Background

- 1.1 The Proper Officer is required to notify the Council of any change in the political balance of the authority or the operation of new political groups under the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. Since the last ordinary meeting of the Council, one new councillor has been elected to serve on the District Council and has joined an existing political group,
- 1.2 On 14 November 2024, a By-Election was held in the District Council ward of Calver and Longstone in consequence of the resignation of Councillor Boothroyd a member of the Green Group. As a result of the By-Election Councillor Froggatt was elected.
- 1.3 The Proper Officer has been notified that Councillor Froggatt is a member of the Conservative Group. The effect of this result is that there are now 11 Members in the Conservative Group (previously 10) and 3 members in the Green Group (previously 4). This means that there continues to be no single political group that has overall control of the Council. This also means that in accordance with the requirements of Section 15 (1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the 1989 Act') the Council needs to review the Proportionality Table
- 1.4 Section 15 (5) of the 1989 Act places on Local Authorities the duty to allocate seats to political groups and sets out the principles to be followed when determining such allocation. The principles, which must be satisfied sequentially, stipulate that so far as reasonably practicable:
 - a) That not all seats on a body are allocated to the same political group.
 - b) That the majority of seats on a body is 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) above, the number of seats on ordinary Committees of the Authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of that Authority, as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority (i.e. the allocation of the total number of Committee seats available must mirror the political composition of the council).
 - b) That the number of seats on the Body which are allocated to each political group, bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Body as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the Authority (i.e. the allocation of seats on Committees and any Outside Bodies subject to the proportionality rules taken together must mirror the political composition of the Council).

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 As indicated above the allocation process must be applied 'so far as is reasonably practicable' to achieve a balanced outcome. The allocation of seats to the four political groups is determined by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Members in a political group}}{\text{Total Number of Members of the Council (34)}} \times \text{Number of Seats to be allocated (82)}$$

- 2.2 In consequence for the 82 seats available in applying principle in paragraph 1.4(a), this gives:

Political Group	Seat Entitlement
Conservatives (11)	27 (26.529)
Green (3)	7 (7.235)
Labour & Cllr O'Brien (8)	19 (19.294)
Liberal Democrats (12)	29 (28.94)

and the revised Proportionality Table is as set out below:

Committee	Membership	Liberal Democrat (12)	Conservative (11)	Labour & Cllr O'Brien (8)	Green (3)
Governance and Resources	11	4	3	3	1
Community and Environment	17	6	6	4	1
Planning	15	5	5	4	1
Scrutiny	9	3	3	2	1
Licensing and Appeals	14	5	5	3	1
Joint Consultative	6	2	2	1	1
Local Plan Sub	10	4	3	2	1
Total	82	29	27	19	7

3. Appointments

Subject to the approval of the proposed revised Proportionality Table at Paragraph 2.2, to confirm the membership of the committees.

4. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 As above

5. Consultation

5.1 The Leaders of the affected Political Groups have been consulted on the proposals in this report.

6. Timetable for Implementation

6.1 This decision will become effectively immediately.

7. Policy Implications

7.1 None

8. Finance and Resource Implications

8.1 The recommendations of this report do not have any impact on the cost of the existing members' allowance scheme. The financial risk is therefore assessed as low.

8. Procurement Implications

8.1 None

9. Legal Advice and Implications

9.1 The legislative requirements in respect of political balance and entitlement to seats are set out earlier in this report. The recommended approach complies with the legislative requirements and on this basis, the legal risks associated with this report are considered to be low.

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 None

11. Climate Change and Biodiversity Implications

11.1 **None**

12. Risk Management

12.1 None

Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from Statutory Officers:

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Paul Wilson	27/11/2024
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer	Karen Henriksen	27/11/2024
Monitoring Officer	Barbara Beardwell	27/11/2024