

Council

5 September, 2017

Name of Cabinet Member:

Not applicable

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title: Allocation of Seats to Political Groups and Appointments to the City Council

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval to amend appointments made at the Annual Meeting of the City Council in May 2017 in respect of membership of Licensing and Regulatory Committee and amendments to the allocation of seats subsequent to Councillor J Birdi joining the Conservative Group.

Recommendations:

That the City Council approves:

- (a) The allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules (attached at Appendix 1).
- (b) The appointment of Councillor T Sawdon to the Audit and Procurement Committee and the appointment of Councillor R Bailey as the Conservative Group Substitute with immediate effect.
- (c) The appointment of Councillor J Birdi as a member of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee in place of Councillor M Lapsa with immediate effect.

List of Appendices included:

Allocation of Seats to political groups

Other useful background papers:

Minutes from the meeting of the City Council held on 18 May 2017

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 5 September, 2017

Report title: Appointments to the City Council

1. Context (or background)

Appointments to certain local authority committees and other bodies are subject to the principles of political proportionality as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and subsequent regulations.

The allocation of seats on the Cabinet is not covered by the legislation and in Coventry the principles are applied to Planning Committee, Licensing and Regulatory Committee, Ethics Committee, Audit and Procurement Committee, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and the five scrutiny boards.

The principles of political proportionality require that:

- not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group
- where a majority of members of Council are members of one political group, that political group must have a majority of the seats on each Committee
- the number of seats allocated to each political group across all the Committees be as near as possible to their proportionate strength on Council
- the number of seats on each Committee be as near as possible to their proportionate strength on Council

These principles should be applied in order and can sometimes conflict in which case the best fit should be achieved.

Once the allocation of seats has been determined, it is for the political groups to make nominations to the allocated places. For the purposes of the legislation a political group must comprise at least two members.

Legislation does allow the number of seats on an individual committee or across all committees in a different proportion to that allocated to political groups, but the Council can only depart from these rules by passing a resolution with no member voting against the resolution.

The City Council made appointments to committees at its Annual Meeting on 18 May 2017. Following Councillor J Birdi joining the Conservative Group on 5 July, 2017, the Council now needs to review the allocation of seats to political groups.

The membership of the Council now comprises 39 Labour members, 14 Conservative members and one independent member. The political balance and allocations table is attached at Appendix 1. As the Independent Member is not part of a political group, the allocations are based entirely on the number of Labour and Conservative group members.

The allocation takes into account an increase in the number of places on the Audit and Procurement Committee from six to seven which has resulted in an additional Conservative Group vacancy. The Conservative Group have nominated Councillor T Sawdon to fill this vacancy and nominated Councillor R Bailey as the Conservative Group Substitute.

In addition, the Conservative Group have asked that Councillor J Birdi replaces Councillor M Lapsa on the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

Appointments to Committees are a function of Council and seats are allocated according to political balance rules.

It is proposed that the City Council approve:

- (a) The allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules (attached).
- (b) The appointment of Councillor T Sawdon as a member of the Audit and Procurement Committee and the appointment of Councillor R Bailey as the Conservative Group Substitute with immediate effect.
- (c) The appointment of Councillor J Birdi as a member of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee with in place of Councillor M Lapsa with immediate effect.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 Not applicable

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 The appointments will take effect from the date of the Council Meeting.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

Not applicable

5.2 Legal implications

The Council is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 to effect political balance requirements in the appointment of committees identified within the appendix to this report. Proposed allocations have been identified in the appendix and is based on the proportion of Labour to Conservative group members.

6. Other implications

Not applicable

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Directorate: Place

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Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Place	27/07/17	03/08/17

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Political Proportionality

	Total	Allocation to groups – adjusted for rounding			Proportional entitlement for political groups (1 decimal place)		
		Con	Lab	Ind	Total %	Con %	Lab %
Party seats	54	14	39	1	100.0%	26.4%	73.6%
Cabinet	10	0	10	0	10.0	n/a	n/a
Entitlement per group excl Cabinet places						24.0	67.0
Planning Committee	11	3	8	0	11	2.9	8.1
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	14	4	10	0	14	3.7	10.3
Ethics Committee	5	1	4	0	5	1.3	3.7
Audit and Procurement Committee	7	2	5	0	7	1.8	5.2
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee	9	2	7	0	9	2.4	6.6
Scrutiny Board 1	9	3	6	0	9	2.4	6.6
Scrutiny Board 2	9	2	7	0	9	2.4	6.6
Scrutiny Board 3	9	3	6	0	9	2.4	6.6
Scrutiny Board 4	9	2	7	0	9	2.4	6.6
Scrutiny Board 5	9	2	7	0	9	2.4	6.6
Totals (excludes Cabinet)	91	24	67	0	91	24.1	66.9

The total number of seats allocated to a group is matched to the rounded entitlement for that group. The number of seats on each committee is matched to the rounded entitlement for that group on that committee but adjusted manually where required to ensure that the number of seats allocated to a particular group matches their entitlement.