

Appendices:
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NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

19th January 2015

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive

Report Title	Committee Proportionality
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1. Purpose

1.1 This report seeks approval for changes to the number and allocation of Committee places as required following changes to the composition of political Groups.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the number of Committee places on Planning be reduced by one, from 12 to 11, and that the Borough Secretary be authorised to amend the Constitution to reflect the change.

2.2 That Council approves the number of seats on each Committee as set out in the report.

2.3 That the representation of the political groups be as set out in this report

2.4 That Groups notify this Meeting of Council as to the changes in their nominations to Committee as follows:

Labour –

Councillor Strachan is removed from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Marriott and Stone will sit on General Purposes Committee

Councillor Marriott is removed from the Standards Committee

Conservative –

Councillor Duncan is appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Aziz is appointed to the Planning Committee

Councillor Duncan is removed off the Licensing Committee and replaced by Councillors Ansell and King.

Councillor Patel is appointed Deputy Chair of the Standards Committee following the removal of Councillor Capstick

Councillor Oldham replaces Councillor Duncan on the General Purposes.

Liberal Democrats -

Changes to be notified at this meeting

2.5 That the Council indicates whether it would wish at this time to review the allocation of political assistants to Groups.

2.6 That following the removal of Joy Capstick from the Labour Group that the Conservative Group gain an extra seat on Licensing Committee and Labour Group lose one in order to reflect changes to proportionality.

3. Issues and Choices

3. Report Background

3.1 The revised composition of the Groups is 27 Conservative Seats, 12 Labour, 5 Liberal Democrat, and 1 Independent (UKIP).

Allocation of Committee Places

3.2. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (SI 1990/1553) require the Council, at its Annual Meeting, or as soon as practicable afterwards following any changes to its political makeup, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocation of seats (i.e. proportionality). The rights of the various political groups are specified in the regulations.

3.3. The following principles need to be applied in allocating Committee places:

3.3.1. That not all seats on any Committee or Sub – Committee are allocated to the same political group:

3.3.2. that the majority of seats on all Committees and Sub- Committees are allocated to the political group that has a majority of the Council's membership or as otherwise reflects the make up of the Council;

3.3.3. that subject to 3.3.1. and 3.3.2 above, the number of seats for all main Committees which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the main Committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council; and

3.3.4. subject to 3.3.3 the numbers of seats on the individual Committees and Sub Committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of seats of that Committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to their membership of the Council.

- 3.4. There are currently 69 allocated Committee places. Having reviewed the revised composition of the Council and seeking to achieve the best proportionality it is proposed to reduce the size of the Planning Committee to 11 members and for the total number of Committee places to thereby be 68.
- 3.5. There are 68 allocated Committee places which breaks down as 41 Conservative, 18 Labour, 8 Liberal Democrat places and 1 Independent place. The allocation of seats between the Committees is as follows:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Lib Dem</u>	<u>Ind/UKIP</u>	<u>Total</u>
Audit	4	2	1	0	7
O&S	9	4	2	0	15
Planning	7	3	1	0	11
Licensing	6	3	1	1	11
Appointments and Appeals	4	2	0	0	6
General Purposes	6	2	1	0	9
Standards	5	2	2	0	9
Totals	41	18	8	1	68

Political Assistants

- 3.6. The Council has chosen to exercise its option to have positions of Political Assistant to Groups. The legislation provides that when the Council establishes such a policy, it must allocate a Political Assistant to each Group with more than 10% of the membership of the Council, except that there can only be a maximum of 3 such posts allocated to the three largest Groups.
- 3.7. The Council should from time to time review the allocation of such posts.
- 3.8. The recent changes in the composition of the Council mean that the Liberal Democrat Group have now reached more than 10% of the Council in size.
- 3.9. The Council is requested to indicate whether it would at this time wish to review the allocation of political assistants to Groups.

Councillor Absence

- 3.10 Councillor Capstick did not attend any qualifying meetings in recent months. The last time that she attended a meeting was on the 14th July 2014.
- 3.11 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that when a Councillor does not attend any council meeting for six consecutive months, she ceases to be a member of the authority unless the Council accepts the reason for her

non-attendance. The Council can only consider a reason before the end of the 6 month period which was not submitted. As the six month period expired the Councillor automatically ceased to be a Member.

3.1.12 Therefore, the proportionality will be as follows:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Lib Dem</u>	<u>Ind/UKIP</u>	<u>Total</u>
Audit	4	2	1	0	7
O&S	9	4	2	0	15
Planning	7	3	1	0	11
Licensing	7	2	1	1	11
Appointments and Appeals	4	2	0	0	6
General Purposes	6	2	1	0	9
Standards	5	2	2	0	9
Totals	42	17	8	1	68

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 n/a

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 If the allocation of political assistants to Groups is reviewed a costs would be incurred in recruiting a political assistant for the Liberal Democrat Group.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The Council is required to act under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocations of seats.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 None specifically arising from the changes.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

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