



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council and Garry Payne, Chief Executive	Council	9 January 2020

Membership of Committees

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To enable changes to be made to the membership of committees for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Effective arrangements to carry out the Council's non-executive decision making and advisory functions.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the revised political balance calculations following the transfer of the 4 previously UKIP Councillors to join with Cllr George in a newly established Brexit Group, as set out in Appendix 1, resulting in a total allocation of 59 seats to the Conservative Group, 13 seats to the Labour Group and 8 seats to the Brexit Group, be noted.
- 3.2 That a Conservative member, to be reported to the meeting, be removed from the Licensing Committee.
- 3.3 That, Cllr George be appointed to the Licensing Committee for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year.
- 3.4 That Councillors Fairbanks, Gerard, O'Neil and Williams retain the existing committee memberships.

4. Background

- 4.1 On 11 November 2019 Councillors Fairbanks, Gerard, O'Neill and Williams Cllr informed the Chief Executive that they had resigned from the UKIP Party and had joined with Cllr George to form a Brexit Group on the Council of 5 members. They had specified that the Leader of the Group was Cllr O'Neil. As a consequence, a change needs to be made to

the membership of committees, in order to comply with the political balance rules.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the allocation of places on non-executive Committees of the Council must be allocated on the following criteria:

- (a) that all seats on a body are not 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 the majority of the Authority's membership;
- (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary Committees of a relevant 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;
- (d) subject to paragraphs (a) - (c) above, that the number of seats on a body which are allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the number of all seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that Group in membership of the Authority.

5.2 The overall political composition of the Council is now: 37 Conservative Members, 8 Labour Members and 5 Brexit members. For the purposes of political balance, the proportion of seats to be allocated to the groups are therefore calculated as follows:

Conservative	37 Members	74%
Labour	8 Members	16%
Brexit	5 Members	10%
Total	50 Members	100%

5.3 There are a total of 80 seats available on the Committees appointed by the Council. The application of the calculations in paragraph 5.1 leads to an overall allocation of 59 seats to the Conservative Group (a decrease of 1), 13 seats to the Labour Group (no change) and 8 seats to the Brexit Group (one more than previously allocated to the UKIP Group). Previously, Cllr George was not allocated any seats, because a single member does not constitute a 'group' under the provisions of the 1989 Act.

5.4 In order to meet as closely as possible the proportionality requirements on each committee (as set out in Section 15(d) of the 1989 Act), as well as the proportion of the total seats on all committees (set out in Section 15(c) of the 1989 Act), it is proposed that places be allocated on committees as shown in the table below (current allocations are shown in brackets):

Committee	Seats	Conservative		Labour		Brexit	
		Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	UKIP Current	Proposed
Overview & Scrutiny	14	(11)	11	(2)	2	(1)	1
Planning	14	(11)	11	(2)	2	(1)	1
Licensing	14	(11)	10	(3)	2	(1)	2
Audit	14	(10)	10	(2)	2	(2)	2
Employment & Appeals	10	(7)	7	(2)	2	(1)	1
Standards	6	(4)	4	(1)	1	(1)	1
Senior officer appointments	4	(3)	3	(1)	1	(0)	0
Senior officer disciplinary	4	(3)	3	(1)	1	(0)	0
	80	(60)	59	(13)	13	(7)	8

5.5 The full calculations are set out in Appendix 1.

5.6 Approval of the recommendations set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.4 will enable these proposals to be implemented and compliance with the legal requirements to be met.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal	The proposals in this report are in accordance with legal requirements, as referred to in section 5 of this report. Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 does allow for a divergence from a literal interpretation of the calculation rules, but only if any such proposals are agreed by the Council without any member voting against.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None	-	-

List of appendices

Appendix 1: Revised Political Balance Calculations 2019/20

dems/cou/cr/20/0901rs2

@ November 2019 %

Political Composition

Conservatives	37	74.00%
Labour	8	16.00%
Brexit	5	10.00%
Total Members	50	100.00%

Committee/Panel	No. of Seats	Conservative	Labour	Brexit	Total	Adjustment Required to.....		Final Allocations.....									
						Conservative	Labour	Brexit	Conservative	Labour	Brexit	Total					
Council	50																
Cabinet	6																
Places to which Political Balance Rules statutorily apply:																	
Planning	14	10.36	2.24	1.40	14.00	1		11	2	1	14	0	0	0			
Licensing	14	10.36	2.24	1.40	14.00		1	10	2	2	14	-1	0	1			
O&S	14	10.36	2.24	1.40	14.00	1		11	2	1	14	0	0	0			
Audit	14	10.36	2.24	1.40	14.00		1	10	2	2	14	0	0	0			
Employment and Appeals	10	7.40	1.60	1.00	10.00			7	2	1	10	0	0	0			
Senior Officer Disciplinary	4	2.96	0.64	0.40	4.00			3	1	0	4	0	0	0			
Senior Officer Appointments	4	2.96	0.64	0.40	4.00			3	1	0	4	0	0	0			
Standards	6	4.44	0.96	0.60	6.00			4	1	1	6	0	0	0			
Total Places to which Political Balance Rules Statutorily Apply-Rounded		57.0	13.0	6.0	76.0			59	13	8	80						
Total Places to which Political Balance Rules Statutorily Apply-Unrounded	80	59.2	12.8	8.0	80												
								73.75%	16.25%	10.00%							
Places to which Political Balance Rules do not statutorily apply:																	
Councillor Development	12	9	2	1	12												
Planning Policy	12	9	2	1	12												

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