

**Agenda Item No: 12**

**Report Title: Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies**

**Report To: Council Date: 19 February 2018**

**Ward(s) Affected: All**

**Report By: Catherine Knight, Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services**

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- 1** The political composition of the Council is 20 Conservative, 11 Liberal Democrat, 6 Independent, 3 Green Group and 1 Independent Green councillor.
- 2** The Chief Executive received written notification from Councillors D Neave, W Botting and S Catlin stating that Councillors Neave and Botting no longer wished to be treated as members of the Conservative Group and wished to be treated as members of the Independent Group.
- 3** As members joined an existing political group and that Group requested a review of the Council's political balance on committees, a review was conducted and a reallocation of some seats on committees is required.
- 4** The change to the political composition means that the Council is now a hung or balanced Council, with no one political party having overall control. The Council's executive arrangements continue to operate as at present in that the executive power remains with the Leader of the Council who has power to determine the size of Cabinet and those persons appointed to it.
- 5** Following consultation with the Leaders of the Political Groups, it is **recommended** that the allocation of places between the political groups as shown in Appendix B, subject to the amendments detailed below, be noted and agreed.

#### Review Procedure

- 6** The principles for carrying out a review of committee proportionality are set out in the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, Section 15(5) – extract of the Act set out at Appendix A to this Report.
- 7** Each Group's fraction of membership converts to a percentage as follows:

Conservative Group  $\frac{20}{41} = 48.78\%$

Liberal Democrat Group	$\frac{11}{41}$	=	26.83%
Independent Group	$\frac{06}{41}$	=	14.63%
Green Group	$\frac{03}{41}$	=	7.32%

**8** In turn, these percentages convert to representation on the various sizes of the Council's committees as shown in Appendix B.

**9** The table in Appendix B calculating the places on individual committees (Part 1 of Appendix B) shows the following totals:

Conservative Group	-	29 places
Liberal Democrat Group	-	14 places
Independent Group	-	4 places
Green Group	-	4 places

**10** However, when the total number of committee places of 51 is subjected to the political group percentages, this gives a total allocation of:

Conservative Group	-	25 places (24.88)
Liberal Democrat Group	-	14 places (13.68)
Independent Group	-	7 places (7.46)
Green Group	-	4 places (3.73)

leaving 1 place remaining for the Independent Green member Councillor S Murray. However, only political groups are entitled to seats on committees. As a standalone member, Councillor Murray does not belong to any political group so is not entitled to seats on committees, so no reallocation of this seat need take place.

**11** It will be seen from paragraphs 9 and 10 above and the Appendix that the Conservative Group has four more places than it is entitled to, and the Independent Group should receive three seats from the Conservative Group. As principle (b), as set out in Appendix A, no longer applies and principle (c) takes precedence over principle (d), it is therefore necessary for the table in Part 1 of Appendix B to be adjusted to allocate three of the Conservative Group places to the Independent Group.

**12** Therefore a Conservative Group seat has been reallocated on the Licensing Committee, Employment Committee and Scrutiny Committee to the Independent Group.

**13** It will also be seen from paragraphs 9 and 10 above and the Appendix that the Conservative Group is left with one more place than it is entitled to. However, on this occasion, no reallocation of the remaining seat can take place without increasing committee memberships and the proportionality calculated by applying principle (c) stands.

- 14** When the total number of Other Bodies places of 11 is subjected to the political group percentages, as seen from Part 2 of Appendix B, the Conservative Group has one more place than it is entitled to, and the Independent Group should receive one seat from the Conservative Group. As principle (b), as set out in Appendix A, no longer applies and principle (c) takes precedence over principle (d), it is therefore necessary for the table in Part 1 of Appendix B to be adjusted to allocate one of the Conservative Group places to the Independent Group.
- 15** Therefore a Conservative Group seat has been reallocated on the Housing Working Party to the Independent Group.
- 16** The following seats remain gifted to other Groups as follows:
- One Conservative seat on Audit and Standards Committee gifted to the Liberal Democrats (currently occupied by Councillor S Gauntlett).
  - Conservative seat on Devolution Committee gifted to the Liberal Democrats (currently occupied by Councillor S Osborne).
  - Two Conservative seats on Landport Bottom Management Committee gifted to the Greens and the Independents (currently occupied by Councillors J Carter and R O’Keeffe).
  - Liberal Democrat seat on Licensing Committee gifted to the Conservatives (currently occupied by Councillor I Linington).
- 17** The political proportionality rules only apply to ordinary committees, sub-committees and other bodies of the Council. These rules do not apply to the Cabinet. The Licensing Act 2003 and the associated guidance and regulations are silent as to whether the Licensing Committee needs to be politically balanced and the Licensing Committee has therefore been included in the calculation in the Appendix.
- 18** The Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the other Political Groups **recommend** that their own Groups’ membership of Committees etc, based on the political structure and the political balance in the Appendix and taking account of the adjustments referred to above, be as follows:

Proportionality is shown as Conservative – Liberal Democrat – Independent – Green:

**Audit and Standards Committee**      Membership 7 (4-1-1-1)

N Enever	M Chartier (Chair)	S Catlin	J Denis
A Loraine			
S Gauntlett (Cons gifted seat)			
VACANT (Cons seat)			

*(plus up to 3 co-opted, non-voting Town/Parish Council members – participation restricted to Standards matters)*

**Devolution Committee** Membership 7 (4-2-1-0)

T Nicholson L Boorman J Harrison-Hicks S Osborne (Cons gifted seat)	G Amy V Ient	S Catlin(Chair)
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**Employment Committee** Membership 5 (3-2-0-0 becomes 2-2-1-0)

E Merry (Chair) P Franklin	S Gauntlett M Chartier	R Robertson
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**Licensing Committee** Membership 10 (6-3-0-1 becomes 5-3-1-1)

S Adeniji (Chair) B Bovington L Boorman J Harrison-Hicks A Loraine	W Elliott S Gauntlett I Linington (Lib Dem gifted seat)	W Botting	T Rowell
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**Planning Applications Committee** Membership 11 (6-3-1-1)

S Davy (Chair) T Jones L Boorman J Sheppard (Vice-Chair) R Turner L Wallraven	G Amy P Gardiner V Ient	S Catlin	T Rowell
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**Scrutiny Committee** Membership 11 (6-3-1-1 becomes 5-3-2-1)

S Adeniji B Bovington N Enever J Peterson C Sugarman	P Gardiner (Chair) V Ient S Osborne	R O'Keeffe R Robertson	J Carter
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**Housing Working Party** Membership 7 (4-2-0-1 becomes 3-2-1-1)

R Maskell (Chair)  
S Davy  
R Turner

M Chartier  
S Saunders

R O’Keeffe

J Denis

**Landport Bottom  
Management  
Committee**

Membership 4 (2-1-1-0)

R O’Keeffe (Cons gifted  
seat)  
J Carter (Cons gifted  
seat)

V Ient

S Catlin

- 19** With no single political group having overall control, a practical arrangement is required which serves to allocate the number of Committee Chairs as proportionately as possible to reflect the political composition of the Council. When the total number of 6 Committee Chairs is subjected to the political group percentages, this gives a total allocation of:

Conservative Group	-	3 Chairs (2.93)
Liberal Democrat Group	-	2 Chairs (1.61)
Independent Group	-	1 Chair (0.88)

- 20** The appointments of Chairs are indicated above and it is **recommended** that the appointments be approved and that any remaining Chairs be appointed at the first meetings of the bodies concerned.
- 21** The **Local Plan Steering Group** needs to be appointed for the purpose of advising on planning policy formulation and associated issues within the Council. As an advisory group, it is not subject to the political proportionality rules but its membership reflects the political balance of the Council and is to be confirmed.
- 22** Working Groups are not subject to the proportionality rules but their membership often reflects the political balance of the Council. Any changes required in the memberships of these groups will be confirmed as part of the annual review of memberships that will be reported to Annual Council in May 2018.

**Outside Body representatives**

- 23** Appointments to Outside Bodies are not subject to the proportionality rules. The Leader of the Council, following consultation with the Leaders of the other Political Groups, **recommends** that the changes to representatives and new appointments on the following Outside Bodies be as follows:
- 23.1 Sussex Rural Community Council (Action in Rural Sussex) –**  
Councillor T Nicholson appointed as rep (this is a new body).

- 23.2 Seaford to Brighton Line Stakeholders Group** – Councillor S Catlin appointed as rep (this is a new body).
- 23.3 Sussex Police and Crime Panel** – Councillor E Merry to replace Councillor A Smith as the appointed substitute rep.