

Review of Political Proportionality

Portfolio:	Non-executive function
Ward(s) Affected:	n/a

Purpose

To review the political proportionality of committees to reflect any changes to the Standing Committees of the Council agreed by the Council on the recommendation of the Governance Working Group.

Background

1. The Governance Working Group, at its meetings on 5 September, 26 September and 19 November 2019, recommended the establishment of an Employment Committee and the discontinuation of the Appointments Committee. The Governance Working Group's proposals are the subject to a separate item on this agenda and, should they be agreed, it will be necessary to amend the Scheme of Political Proportionality.
2. As a result of the proposed changes to the number of members appointed to committees, the Council is asked to review the proportional and to adopt a revised scheme of proportionality.
3. Annex A sets out the political proportionality for committees and the overall political proportionality to reflect the Governance Working Group's proposals.

Political Proportionality

4. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires seats on committees to be allocated in proportion to the political composition of the Council. Only with no councillor voting against such a decision, can an authority decide that it wishes to adopt an arrangement other than a proportional one. Where there has been a change in the division of members into political groups, local authorities are required to review political proportionality as soon as practical.
5. The number of seats of each group on the Council and the resulting percentages are now as follows:

<u>Conservative Group</u>	<u>Liberal Democrats Group</u>	<u>Community Group</u>	<u>Green Group</u>
18 51.43%	11 28.57%	5 14.29%	2 5.71%

6. In determining the allocation of seats on committees, the proportion that each political group forms of the total membership of the Council is applied to the total number of elected councillor seats on each committee. Fractional entitlements of less than one half are rounded down and entitlements of one half or more are rounded up. So that this process of rounding does not result in disproportionate advantage to one political group, the aggregate membership of all the committees must also be in line with the proportions on the Council.

Options

7. The Council can choose to adopt the revised scheme of proportionality as set out at Annex A. Alternatively, Members can suggest an alternative scheme.
8. These amendments are subject to the Council adopting the recommendations of the Governance Working Group.
9. The Council has no option but to achieve political proportionality. Where it is not possible to achieve absolute proportionality for each committee, the scheme agreed must achieve overall proportionality across all the committees of the Council.
10. The Executive is not required to be proportionally balanced.

Proposal

11. The Annex incorporates a revised scheme of proportionality for 2019/20 to reflect the changes in group membership. This scheme achieves the required balance between the four political groups on the Council.
12. Any nominations in respect of the revised memberships of the Committees will be laid on the table or announced at the meeting.

Resources Implications

13. There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

14. The Council is advised to RESOLVE that the revised scheme of proportionality as set out at Annex A be adopted.

Background Papers: None

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