



AGENDA ITEM 10

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

26 MAY 2015

ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COMMITTEES

Report of the Service Director – Legal & Democratic Services

1. To review and approve the allocation of seats on committees in accordance with the statutory requirements concerning political balance and to approve the appointment of members (and substitutes) to serve on committees for 2015/2016.

Background

2. Under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, the City Council has a duty to review the representation of different political groups at its annual meeting in respect of bodies to which the section applies (for example, the section applies to the Council's ordinary committees). The section does not apply to the statutory Licensing Committee or Health and Wellbeing Board and so the political balance rules are not applied to these. Section 15 of the Act provides that, in performing this duty, the Council has a duty to make only such determinations as give effect **so far as reasonably practicable** to the following principles:
 - (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a 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 the authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and

(d) subject to (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

3. The current membership of political groups represented on the city council is set out below and the names of the members of each group are set out in **Appendix A** to this report.

Labour	30 members
Conservative	16 members
Green	13 members
Liberal Democrat	10 members

There is one UKIP member. The UKIP member is not included in calculations in the following paragraphs as a single member may not be treated as a political group.

4. For the purpose of calculating the entitlement of each political group to seats on committees, it is proposed that the following be included:

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
Place Scrutiny Commission
People Scrutiny Commission
Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission
Business Change and Resources Scrutiny Commission
Development Control Committee A
Development Control Committee B
Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee
Public Safety and Protection Committee
Selection Committee
Human Resources Committee
Audit Committee

5. Alternative arrangements for appointments to these committees can be approved provided no member of the council votes against.

6. Subject to the Full Council appointing the committees as per agenda item 9, and agreeing the sizes of committees described below, the total number of

seats on committees available this year is proposed to be **104**.

7. The number of council members for each political group expressed as a percentage of the total membership of political groups on the city council (69) is:

Labour	30 members	(% of 69) =	43.47 %
Conservative	16 members	(% of 69) =	23.18 %
Green	13 members	(% of 69) =	18.84 %
Liberal Democrat	10 members	(% of 69) =	14.49 %

8. Following discussions with the political group whips, the following committees are proposed:

	Lab	Con	Green	LD
12 member committees:				
Development Control Committee A	5	3	2	2
Development Control Committee B	5	3	2	2
Overview & Scrutiny Management Board	5	3	2	2
9 member committees:				
Place Scrutiny Commission	4	2	2	1
People Scrutiny Commission	4	2	2	1
Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission	4	2	2	1
Business Change & Resources Scrutiny Commission	4	2	2	1
8 member committee				
Public Safety & Protection Committee	3	2	2	1
6 member committees				
Public Rights of Way & Greens Committee	3	1	1	1
Audit Committee	3	1	1	1
Human Resources Committee	3	1	1	1
Selection Committee	3	1	1	1
TOTAL = 104, breaking down as :	46	23	20	15

	Lab	Con	Green	Lib Dem
<i>The % which this distribution gives each party</i>	44.23%	22.12%	19.23%	14.42%
<i>As compared with the entitlement %</i>	43.47%	23.18%	18.84%	14.49%

9. These totals reflect **as far as is reasonably practicable**, the aggregate entitlement of the political groups to committee seats.

Appointments to which political balance would not apply:

10. In addition to the above allocation of committee seats to political groups, the following request has been made by the UKIP councillor (Cllr M Frost) for a committee seat:

Cllr Frost (UKIP) – request to sit on the Place Scrutiny Commission.

11. The addition of Councillor Frost to a committee is permissible under the rules pertaining to political balance **subject to no member voting against**.

Membership of:

- ***Licensing Committee***
- ***Appeals Committee***
- ***Joint Health Scrutiny Committee***
- ***South West Ambulance Service Trust Joint Scrutiny Committee***
- ***West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee***
- ***Health and Wellbeing Board***

12. **Licensing Committee:** The City Council has a Licensing Committee, pursuant to Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003 comprising of 15 members of the authority. It is recommended that the Licensing Committee should continue to comprise of 15 members (by law, the committee must comprise no more than 15 and no less than 10 members); and that the Full Council confirms the 15 members appointed to this committee.

13. **Appeals Committee:** The Council is requested to determine the membership of the Appeals Committee.

It is proposed that, as in previous years, membership of the Appeals Committee should comprise any 3 members of the Council subject to them having first received the necessary training and not having been involved in the original decision which is subject to appeal.

14. **Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, South West Ambulance Service Trust Joint Scrutiny Committee and West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee:** It is proposed that the Council be represented by 3 members (one from each of the largest 3 political groups) on the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, the South West Ambulance Service Trust Joint Scrutiny

Committee, and the West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee.

15. **Health and Wellbeing Board:** The membership of the Health and Well Being Board is prescribed in section 194 of the 2012 Act as follows:
- (a) At least one councillor from the authority nominated by the elected mayor. The elected mayor may himself be a member of the board instead of or in addition to the person nominated by him.
 - (b) The director of adult social services for the local authority.
 - (c) The director of children's services for the local authority.
 - (d) The director of public health for the local authority.
 - (e) A representative of the Local Healthwatch organisation for the area of the local authority.
 - (f) A representative of each relevant clinical commissioning group.
 - (g) Such other persons, or representatives of such other persons, as the local authority thinks appropriate.

Council determined at its annual meeting in 2014 that, in accordance with the power referred to in sub- paragraph (g) above, the Party Group Leaders of the Labour, Conservative, Green and Liberal Democrat groups, or their nominated representative be appointed to the Board.

Council is asked to note the continuation of the arrangements for appointment to the Health and Well Being Board whereby;

- (a) The Mayor and at the discretion of the Mayor one other councillor appointed by him and;
- (b) The Party Group Leaders of the Labour, Conservative, Green and Liberal Democrat Groups (or their nominated representatives) are appointed to the Board.

Substitutes

16. In addition to deciding the allocation of seats to political groups, the Full Council is also required to decide substitute arrangements.

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) to approve the allocation of committee seats as set out above.**
- (2) to agree that Councillor Frost (UKIP member) be offered a seat on the Place Scrutiny Commission subject to no member of Council voting against.**
- (3) to confirm that the Licensing Committee should continue to comprise of 15 members (by law, the committee must comprise no more than 15 and no less than 10 members); and to confirm the 15 members appointed to this committee.**

- (4) to agree that all members of council be appointed to serve on an Appeals Committee comprising of any three members of the council subject to them having first received the necessary training and not having been involved in the original decision which is subject to appeal.**
- (5) to agree that the Council be represented by three members, one from each of the three largest political groups, on the**
- Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**
 - South West Ambulance Service Trust Joint Scrutiny Committee**
 - West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee**
- (6) to note the position in relation to the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board.**
- (7) to agree that named members will be provided for the committees by the Group Whips by 5.00 pm on 29 May 2015 at the very latest (to be sent to the Monitoring Officer). If named substitutes are not also provided, then any councillor of the relevant group may attend a meeting as a substitute other than in the case of (a) a Development Control Committee, where the substitute must be a member of another Development Control Committee (and be appropriately trained) or (b), any Scrutiny Committee, where the substitute may not be a member of the executive.**

Appendix A – names of political group members

MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS - 2015 / 2016

Labour Group (30)

Councillor M Bradshaw
Councillor M Brain
Councillor F Breckels
Councillor C Cheney
Councillor B Clark
Councillor N Daniels
Councillor R E Greaves
Councillor M Hickman
Councillor H Holland
Councillor C D Jackson
Councillor H Jama
Councillor M Khan
Councillor G Kirk
Councillor M Langlely
Councillor J Lovell
Councillor B Massey
Councillor O Mead
Councillor E Means
Councillor S M Milestone
Councillor S Mongon
Councillor B Payne
Councillor S Pearce
Councillor C C Phipps
Councillor N G Rylatt
Councillor A Shah
J Smith
Councillor R Stone
Councillor M Thelfall
Councillor E Tincknell
Councillor M Wollacott

Conservative Group (16)

Councillor P J Abraham
Councillor L Alexander
Councillor J Budd
Councillor R Eddy
Councillor G R Gollop
Councillor J Goulandris
Councillor W R Harvey
Councillor C M Hiscott
Councillor C J H Lucas
Councillor M S Melias
Councillor D H R Morris
Councillor G D Morris
Councillor K M Quartley

Councillor A P L Watson
Councillor M D R Weston
Councillor C Windows

Green Group (13)

Councillor C Bolton
Councillor S Clarke
Councillor C S Denyer
Councillor D Glazzard
Councillor M Fodor
Councillor G Hoyt
Councillor D M Joffe
Councillor T Malnick
Councillor A McMullen
Councillor D Radice
Councillor A Stafford-Townsend
R Telford
Councillor J Thomas

Liberal Democrat Group (10)

Councillor C Champion-Smith
Councillor S T Cook
Councillor C Davies
Councillor F Hance
Councillor G M Hopkins
Councillor T R Kent
Councillor T Leaman
Councillor G S Morgan
Councillor A L Negus
Councillor M Wright

Other:

UKIP councillor (1)

Councillor M Frost *

* does not constitute a political group as a single member may not be treated as a political group