

Full Council

15 March 2022



Report of: Tim O’Gara, Director – Legal and Democratic Services

Title: **Political Proportionality and Allocation of Committee Seats**

Ward: Citywide

Summary

On 17 February 2022 a by-election took place which updates the Council’s political proportionality.

Recommendation

To review and approve the allocation of seats on committees in accordance with the statutory requirements concerning political balance and to approve the allocation of Committee Seats as set out in the report.

The significant issues in the report are:

As set out in the main report.



Policy

1. Not applicable

Consultation

2. **Internal**
Party Group Whips
3. **External**
Not applicable

Context

4. On 17 February a by-election took place which updates the Council's political proportionality.

Background / Proposal

5. Under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) regulations, the Full Council has a duty to review the representation of different political groups in respect of bodies to which the section applies (for example, the section applies to the Council's ordinary committees and Scrutiny Commissions). The section does not apply to the statutory Licensing Committee or the 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 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 numbers of that group to the membership of the authority.
6. The current councillor membership of political groups represented on the City Council is set out below and the names of the councillors in each group are set out in Appendix A to this report:

Labour group	24 Members
Green group	24 Members
Conservative group	14 Members
Liberal Democrat group	6 Members

Knowle Community Party 2 Members

7. For the purposes of calculating the entitlement of each political group to seats on committees, it is proposed that the following be included:
- Development Control Committee A
 - Development Control Committee B
 - Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
 - People Scrutiny Commission
 - Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission
 - Communities Scrutiny Commission
 - Resources Scrutiny Commission
 - Public Safety and Protection Committee
 - Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee
 - Audit Committee
 - Human Resources Committee
 - Selection Committee
8. Alternative arrangements for appointments to these committees can be approved provided no Member of the Council votes against.
9. Full Council has appointed and agreed the sizes of committees described in the paragraph below. The total number of seats available on these committees is 105.
10. The number of Council Members for each political group expressed as a percentage of the total Councillor membership of political groups on the City Council (70) is as follows:

Labour	24 Members (% of 70) = 34.29 %
Green	24 Members (% of 70) = 34.29 %
Conservative	14 Members (% of 70) = 20 %
Liberal Democrat	6 Members (% of 70) = 8.57 %
Knowle Community Party	2 Members (% of 70) = 2.86 %

Following discussion with the Party Group Whips, the following committee sizes are proposed:

	LAB	GREEN	CON	LD	KCP
9 Member Committees:					
Development Control Committee A	3	3	2	1	
Development Control Committee B	3	3	2	1	
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	3	3	2	1	
People Scrutiny Commission	3	3	2	1	
Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission	3	3	2	1	
Communities Scrutiny Commission	3	3	2		1
Resources Scrutiny Commission	3	3	2		1
Public Safety and Protection Committee	3	3	2		1

Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee	3	3	2	1	
Audit Committee	3	3	2	1	
Human Resources Committee	3	3	2	1	
6 Member Committee					
Selection Committee	2	2	1	1	
TOTAL = 105 seats, breaking down as	36	36	24	9	3
	LAB	GREEN	CON	LD	KCP
The % which this distribution gives each party:	33.33%	33.33%	22.22%	8.57%	2.86%
As compared with the entitlement %	34.29%	34.29%	20%	8.57%	2.86%

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

Other Options Considered

Not applicable.

Risk Assessment

Not applicable.

Public Sector Equality Duties

Not applicable.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

As indicated in the report, in determining the allocation of committee seats and the appointment of Members to serve on Committees, the Full Council must comply with the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) regulations.

(Legal advice provided by Tim O’Gara, Director – Legal and Democratic Services)

Financial

(a) Revenue

Not applicable.

(b) Capital

Not applicable.

Land

Not applicable.

Personnel

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Full Council is recommended to:

- 1. Approve the allocation of committee seats as set out above.**

Appendices:

Appendix A – Councillor membership of political groups

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None

APPENDIX A

Councillor membership of political groups

Labour Group (24)

Councillor Don Alexander
Councillor Amal Ahmed Ali
Councillor Kerry Bailes
Councillor Nicola Beech
Councillor Marley Bennett
Councillor Mark Bradshaw
Councillor Fabian Breckels
Councillor Craig Cheney
Councillor Amirah Cole
Councillor Asher Craig
Councillor Kye Dudd
Councillor Paul Goggin
Councillor Zoe Goodman
Councillor Helen Holland
Councillor Katja Hornchen
Councillor Philippa Hulme
Councillor Farah Hussain
Councillor Christopher Jackson
Councillor Hibaq Jama
Councillor Ellie King
Councillor Brenda Massey
Councillor Steve Pearce
Councillor Thomas Renhard
Councillor Timothy Rippington

Green Group (24)

Councillor Jenny Bartle
Councillor Carla Denyer
Councillor Tony Dyer
Councillor Emma Edwards
Councillor Jude English
Councillor Lily Fitzgibbon
Councillor Tessa Fitzjohn
Councillor Martin Fodor
Councillor Lorraine Francis
Councillor Katy Grant
Councillor Fi Hance
Councillor Tom Hathway
Councillor Heather Mack
Councillor Mohamed Makawi
Councillor Yassin Mohamud
Councillor Paula O'Rourke

Councillor Barry Parsons
Councillor Ed Plowden
Councillor Guy Poultney
Councillor Ani Stafford-Townsend
Councillor Lisa Stone
Councillor Christine Townsend
Councillor David Wilcox
Councillor Tim Wye

Conservative Group (14)

Councillor Lesley Alexander
Councillor Richard Eddy
Councillor John Geater
Councillor Geoff Gollop
Councillor John Goulandris
Councillor Jonathan Hucker
Councillor Henry Michallat
Councillor Graham Morris
Councillor Kevin Quartley
Councillor James Scott
Councillor Sharon Scott
Councillor Steve Smith
Councillor Mark Weston
Councillor Chris Windows

Liberal Democrat Group (6)

Councillor Andrew Brown
Councillor Jos Clark
Councillor Sarah Classick
Councillor Alex Hartley
Councillor Tim Kent
Councillor Andrew Varney

Knowle Community Party (2)

Councillor Chris Davies
Councillor Gary Hopkins