

# Full Council

14 March 2023



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

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

**Ward:** Citywide

## Summary

On 2 February 2023 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 2 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:

Green group	25 Members
Labour group	24 Members
Conservative group	14 Members
Liberal Democrat group	5 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
  - Health 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 114.
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:

Green	25 Members (% of 70) = 35.71 %
Labour	24 Members (% of 70) = 34.29 %
Conservative	14 Members (% of 70) = 20 %
Liberal Democrat	5 Members (% of 70) = 7.14 %
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
<b>9 Member Committees:</b>					
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	
Health 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	
<b>6 Member Committee</b>					
Selection Committee	2	2	1	1	
<b>TOTAL = 114 seats, breaking down as</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>LAB</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>KCP</b>
The % which this distribution gives each party:	33.33%	33.33%	21.93%	9.65%	1.75%
As compared with the entitlement %	34.29%	35.71%	20%	7.14%	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 (25)**

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 Patrick McAllister  
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 Goulandriss  
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 (5)**

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

**Knowle Community Party (2)**

Councillor Chris Davies  
Councillor Gary Hopkins