

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL – 17 JANUARY, 2019

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

1 The Council is recommended to:

- (1) **note the change in political group affiliation for Councillor Wallace, following notification to the Chief Executive, to the effect that: the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Aligned Independents Group has 42 members (comprising Conservatives (21 – previously 22), Liberal Democrats (14) and Aligned Independents (7), the Partnership has 23 members (comprising SNP (21) and the Aberdeenshire Labour and Communities Alliance (2)) and the remaining members comprise - the Democratic Independent Green Group (2) and individuals (3 – previously 2);**
- (2) **note that the political proportionality for the current standard model for a 14 member committee requires adjustment as detailed in paragraph 2.7 below;**
- (3) **agree the exact composition of the four Policy Committees and the Audit Committee, having regard to the principle of each member being allocated one committee place; and**
- (4) **note that the political proportionality for the current standard 8 member and 5 member committees and for sub-committees and working groups as approved by Full Council on 18 May 2017 does not require amendment as a result of the notification outlined at recommendation (1.1) above.**

2 Background

- 2.1 The Council at its meeting on 18 May 2017 (Item 7) approved the allocation of places and the appointment of members to committees, sub-committees, joint committees and working groups to reflect the political proportionality of the Council.
- 2.2 Following a change in political group affiliation for Councillor Wallace notified to the Chief Executive, the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Aligned Independents Group now have 42 members (comprising Conservatives (21 – previously 22), Liberal Democrats (14) and Aligned Independents (7), the Partnership continues to have 23 members (comprising SNP (21) and the Aberdeenshire Labour and Communities Alliance (2)) and the remaining members comprise - the Democratic Independent Green Group (2) and individuals (3 – previously 2);
- 2.3 The revised percentages are as follows -

Total Members		
Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Aligned Independents	42/70	60%
Partnership	23/70	32.86%
Amalgamated small groups and individuals	5/70	7.14%

2.4 These produce the following revised percentages for the standard 14 member model for Policy Committees and the Audit Committee and for standard 8 and 5 member models for Miscellaneous Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups.

Groups	14 member		8 member		5 member	
Con, Lib Dem, Aligned Ind	$60\% \times 14 = 8.4$	8	$60\% \times 8 = 4.8$	5	$60\% \times 5 = 3$	3
Partnership	$32.86\% \times 14 = 4.6$	5	$32.86\% \times 8 = 2.63$	3	$32.86\% \times 5 = 1.64$	2
Amalgamated small groups and individuals	$7.14\% \times 14 = 1$	1	$7.14\% \times 8 = 0.57$	0	$7.14\% \times 5 = 0.36$	0
Totals		14		8		5

2.5 The overall balance of places on 14 member committees requires amendment. It is for the Council to decide which Committees are constituted in which way so as to reflect the political proportionality as well as honouring the Council's One Member, One Committee decision.

2.6 The current composition of the four Policy Committees and Audit Committee is as follows:-

	Business Services	Education and Children's Services	Infrastructure Services	Communities	Audit	Total
Con, Lib Dem, Aligned Independents	8	9	9	9	8	43
Partnership	5	4	4	5	5	23
Amalgamated small groups and individuals	1	1	1	0	1	4

2.7 In light of the change, the current composition results in the Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Aligned Independents having one more place than they should and so adjustment is necessary. By the Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Aligned Independents reducing their membership of the Communities Committee a place could be allocated to the Amalgamated small groups and individuals.

2.8 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and any comments received

have been incorporated in the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 Section A.2.1 of the List of Committee Powers at Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance requires any changes in committee structure and appointments to be determined by Full Council.

4 Implications and risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the changes proposed are procedural matters and do not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no staffing or financial implications arising directly as a result of this report.
- 4.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate and Directorate Level

[Aberdeenshire Corporate Risks](#)

ACORP006 – Reputation Management

[Business Services Directorate Risks](#)

BSSR007 – Council Transition

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by:- Ann Riddell, Principal Committee Officer
11 December 2018

