
Council

25 October 2018

Report of the Assistant Director, Legal & Governance

Proportionality, Allocation to Seats and Appointments to the Council Structure and Outside Bodies for the remainder of 2018/19

Summary

1. At its Annual Meeting in May 2018, Full Council considered the allocation of seats on Committees and other bodies for 2018/19 and made appointments for the current Municipal Year, based on the proportionality of the Council at that time. This report sets out details of proposed new arrangements, as a result of two Members resigning from the Labour Group and forming a separate group, Independent Socialists York. It also details some standard in year changes to Committee etc membership for Council approval.

Background

2. Council is required to make those appointments and to allocate those places on the committees and other bodies that it wishes to set up in order to run its business during any given Municipal Year. For 2018/19, these appointments were made in accordance with the political balance of the Council which pertained at the time of the Annual Meeting on 25 May 2018, in accordance with the requirements set out in the 1989 Local Government & Housing Act.
3. In August 2018, Councillors Shepherd and Derbyshire resigned formally from the Labour Group and formed a group of two, the 'Independent Socialists York'. As a result, Council needs to review its proportionality arrangements and therefore its appointments to Committees, etc.

Allocation of Seats

4. Annex A to this report sets out the revised allocation of seats reflecting the changes referred to above.

Appointments to Committees, Working Groups & Outside Bodies

5. Further to the allocation of seats referred to above Full Council is asked to make the changes to appointments to those Committees now set out in Annex B, together with some minor additional alterations to membership of Committees/outside bodies and revised nominations for the Vice Chair of Planning and Area Planning Sub-Committee, which are now proposed for Council approval. These revised appointments are proposed in accordance with nominations made by political groups, and Independent Members, as may be appropriate.

Consultation

6. In accordance with the usual process for gathering nominations to available places on Committees etc, all relevant party Groups have been consulted and provided with the necessary information on available places.

Options

7. Options open to the Council are:
 - (i) to approve or not approve the allocation of seats in accordance with the revised arrangements set out in Annex A;
 - (ii) to make the revised appointments proposed at the meeting to Committees set out in Annex B or propose alternatives;

Council Plan 2015-19

8. Establishing an appropriate decision making and scrutiny structure, is essential in providing a framework through which the Council can make decisions relating to the delivery of its core priorities set out in the Council Plan, effectively.

Implications

9. There are no known implications in relation to any of the following in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members, namely to re-allocate seats and places to Committees and other bodies, in light of in year political changes.
 - Financial
 - Human Resources (HR)
 - Equalities

- Crime and Disorder
- Property
- Other

Legal Implications

10. The Council is statutorily obliged to make appointments to committees, advisory committees, sub Committees and certain other prescribed bodies in accordance with the political balance rules. These rules may only be waived where no Member votes against the proposal. At the Annual Meeting, Council opted to waive those rules in relation to appointments to the Joint Standards Committee, in the interests of fairness, independence and equality on this Committee.

Risk Management

11. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report, other than the failure to meet the above legal requirements by reflecting its new proportionality in the allocation of seats.

Recommendations

12. Members are asked to consider the recommendations and annexes attached to this report and
 - (i) Agree the revised allocation of seats in accordance with Annex A; and
 - (ii) Approve appropriate revised appointments to Committees, as set out in Annex B, and

Reason: To fulfil the Council's statutory and constitutional requirements.

Contact details:

Author:

Dawn Steel
Head of Civic &
Democratic Services
Tel: 01904 551030

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director, Governance & ICT

Report Approved



Date

15 October
2018

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes:

Annex A – Revised Allocation of seats 2018/19

Annex B - Revised Appointments to Committees

Background Papers

None