

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>20 MAY 2021</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND WORKING GROUPS</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>			
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>		
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>		

### **Purpose of Report**

To consider the consequential impact of political proportionality on seats on the Council's Committees Following the by-elections for Annesley & Kirkby Woodhouse and Skegby Wards. Ashfield Independent Councillors were appointed to both Wards, Councillor Jamie Bell and Will Bostock.

The report also details the reduction in seats on the Planning & Licensing Committees and the Local Plan Working Group, from 11 to 9. This reduces the number of overall seats available on Committees from 89 to 83.

### **Recommendation(s)**

That the Council;

- (a) Reduce the number of allocated seats on the Planning and Licensing Committee and the Local Plan Working Group from 11 to 9.
- (b) As a result of the above, Ashfield Independent seats are reduced by 5 overall and Conservative group seat allocation is reduced by 1.
- (c) Note the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Scrutiny Panel be renamed the Covid-19 Recovery Scrutiny Panel, inline with the Council's reviewed focus on recovery.
- (d) Note the Overall allocation of seats by group as detailed in Table A.
- (e) Note the allocation of seats on Committees as detailed in Table B.

## **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

To comply with the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, requiring the Council to allocate seats on its Committees in a politically proportional way.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

No other options are appropriate as the Council has to comply with the need for political proportionality in the distribution of seats on Council Committees.

## **Detailed Information**

### **POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

The Council is required by law to ensure that it allocates places on its Committees in a politically proportionate way. It does not apply to the Council's Executive, the Cabinet.

At the start of the year the Council is asked to allocate places on the relevant Committees in a politically proportionate way. There are 83 such places in total. Council is asked to make amendments to these allocations during the course of the year, as required to reflect any changes to its overall political composition.

In order to restore as far as possible political proportionality on the Council (for practical purposes some element of 'rounding up' of the figures is required) the number of places allocated to the Ashfield Independents is to be reduced by 5 seats and the number of seats allocated to the Conservative Group is reduced by 1. There are no changes to the allocation of seats to the Labour Group or non-aligned Independent Members.

Councillors that are not members of political groups have no entitlement to an allocation of seats on Committees. Political groups are entitled to their proportion of seats and once their entitlement has been reached, the remaining seats may be filled by Councillors not belonging to a political group.

This current allocation of politically proportional places on the Council are as follows:

**Table A**

Group	Seats on Council	Allocation of the 83 places subject to political proportionality
Ashfield Independents	28	66
Conservative	3	7
Labour	2	5
Non-Aligned	2	5

## Places on Committees

**Table B**

	Ashfield Independents	Conservative	Labour	Non-Aligned
Planning	7 (-2)	1	1	0
Licensing	7 (-2)	0	1	1
Standards and Personnel	5	1	0	1
Local Plan Working Group	7 (-2)	1	1	0
Overview and Scrutiny	6	1	0	0
Scrutiny Panel A	6	0	1	0
Scrutiny Panel B	6 (+1)	0 (-1)	0	1
Covid-19 Recovery Scrutiny Panel	5	1	0	1
Chief Officers Employment Committee	6	1	0	0
Charities	5	0	1	1
Audit	6	1	0	0

The table above demonstrates total number of seats available on each Committee for each group. It also indicates where the deductions in group seats have been made as a consequence of reducing the overall allocated seats on the Planning and Licensing Committee and the Local Plan Working Group.

### Implications

#### **Corporate Plan:**

There are no implications in respect of the Corporate Plan

#### **Legal:**

The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to allocate places on its committees in a politically proportional way.

#### **Finance:**

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

**Risk:**

Risk	Mitigation
Should the changes not be made to allocated seats and political proportionality The Council would be contravening The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (which requires local authorities to allocate places on their committees in a politically proportionate way).	Committee Membership and Political Balance be altered accordingly

**Human Resources:**

There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

**Environmental/Sustainability**

There are no Environmental / Sustainability implications arising from this report.

**Equalities:**

There are no Equality implications arising from this report.

**Other Implications:**

*None*

**Reason(s) for Urgency**

*None*

**Reason(s) for Exemption**

*None*

**Background Papers**

*None*

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

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