

Cherwell District Council

Council

24 February 2020

<p>Amendments to Proportionality Calculations and Committee Membership</p>

Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To note the amendments to the constitution of political groups and amendments to the proportionality calculations and committee membership arising

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the amended constitution of Political Groups.
- 1.2 To note the amended allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the political balance requirements as set out in Table 1.
- 1.3 To note the amended allocation of seats on committees that are not subject to political balance requirements as set out in Table 2.
- 1.4 To note the amendments to committee membership, as advised by the respective Spokespersons of the Independent Group and Progressive Oxfordshire Group (to follow).

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 On 4 February 2020 the Progressive Oxfordshire Spokesperson, Councillor Tyson, and Councillor Cotter advised the Proper Officer that Councillor Cotter had decided to leave the Independent Group and join the Progressive Oxfordshire Group.
- 2.2 A Member changing political group requires a review of the allocation of seats on committees and changes to committee membership to be made if necessary. This is reported to the next scheduled Council meeting and effective from the date of that meeting.

3.0 Report Details

3.1 The current constitution of Council (48 members) is:

31 Conservative (65%)
 9 Labour (19%)
 4 Independent (8%)
 2 Liberal Democrat (4%)
 1 Green (2%)
 1 Vacancy (2%)

3.2 In May 2019 the four Independent councillors notified the Chief Executive they had formed the Independent Group. The two Liberal Democrat councillors and one Green councillor notified the Chief Executive they had formed the Progressive Oxfordshire Group. Proportionality and committee appointments were made including these Groups, alongside the Conservative Group and Labour Group.

3.3 As a result of Councillor Cotter leaving the Independent Group and joining the Progressive Oxfordshire Group, the current political groupings of Council for committee allocations is:

	% of seats
31 Conservative	65%
9 Labour	19%
4 Progressive Oxfordshire	8%
3 Independent	6%
1 Vacant	2%

3.4 In light of the amended seat percentage entitlement, Table one sets out the revised allocation of seats of proportional committees:

Political Balance	TOTAL	CON	LAB	PROG OXF	IND	VACANT
Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee	8	5	2	1	0	0
Appeals Panel	10	7	2	0 (-1)	1 (+1)	0
Budget Planning Committee	12	8	2	1	1	0
Joint Appeals Committee	3	2	1	0	0	0
Joint Shared Services & Personnel Committee	5	3	1	1	0	0
Licensing Committee	12	8	2	1	1	0
Overview & Scrutiny	12	8	2	1	1	0
Personnel Committee	12	8	2	1	1	0
Planning Committee	18	12	3	2	1	0
Standards Committee	8	6(+1)	2	0 (-1)	0	0
Proportional Total by Committee	100	67	19	10	5	0
Aggregate Entitlement	100	67	19	8	6	0

Adjustment Required	N/A	Plus 1	Ok	Minus 2	Plus 1	0
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3.5 In light of the amended seat percentage entitlement, Table two sets out the revised allocation of seats of proportional committees:

Political Balance	TOTAL	CON	LAB	PROG OX	IND	VACANT
Joint Arrangements Steering Group	5	3	1	1	0	0
Partnership Working Group	5	3	1	1	0	0

3.6 As a result of the above calculations, the following amendments to committee membership are required:

Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Remove: Independent Group member
Add: Progressive Oxfordshire Group member

Appeals Panel

Remove: Progressive Oxfordshire Group member
Add: Independent Group member

Joint Shared Services and Personnel Committee

Remove: Independent Group member (and named substitute)
Add: Progressive Oxfordshire Group member (and named substitute)

Planning Committee

Remove: Independent Group member (to leave 1 Independent Group member)
Add: Progressive Oxfordshire Group member (and named substitute) (additional seat)

Joint Arrangements Steering Group

Remove: Independent Group member (and named substitute)
Add: Progressive Oxfordshire Group member (and named substitute)

Partnership Working Group

Remove: Independent Group member (and named substitute)
Add: Progressive Oxfordshire Group member (and named substitute)

3.7 The Independent Group Spokesperson and the Progressive Oxfordshire Group Spokesperson have been notified of the amendments required and will notify the Proper Officer ahead of the 24 February 2020 Council meeting. The information will be published as an addendum to the report as soon as it is available.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 A change in political group membership has resulted in a review of the allocation of seats on committees that are both subject to and not subject to the political balance

requirements with amendments to committee membership. The Constitution requires Council to agree each of these aspects.

5.0 Consultation

Councillor Katherine Tyson, Amended appointments to be advised
Progressive Oxfordshire Group
Spokesperson

Councillor Les Sibley, Amended appointments to be advised
Independent Group
Spokespersons

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to amend appointments to committees. This is rejected as the change of political group membership has resulted in amended entitlement to seats on committees for the Independent Group and Progressive Oxfordshire Group.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

Comments checked by: Dominic Oakeshott, Assistant Director of Finance (Interim)
01295 227943, Dominic.Oakeshott@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Legal Implications

7.2 It is a legal requirement for Council to agree proportionality and appoint members to Committee based on the nominations of Group Leaders / Spokespersons.

Comments checked by: Nick Graham, Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer, nick.graham@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Risk Implications

7.3 In ensuring the legal requirements are met risk to the authority is mitigated.

Comments checked by: Nick Graham, Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer, nick.graham@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager
Contact Information	01295 221589 natasha.clark@cherwell-dc.gov.uk