

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY

SHADOW AUTHORITY MEETING

20th August 2020

Report of the Interim Monitoring Officer

Report Title	Committee Proportionality and Appointment of Members to Committees
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the membership of political groups on the Shadow Authority since the last review at its inaugural meeting In June 2020.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shadow Authority:

- i) notes the revised membership of the political groups;
- ii) approves the revised allocation of places on committees between the political groups;
- iii) approves the revised membership of individual committees.

(Reason for recommendations: to accord with political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as set out at paragraph 3.6.)

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.2 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989,(the Act) and its associated regulations, requires the Shadow Authority, as soon as practicable following changes to its membership, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocation of seats (i.e. proportionality) to committees.
- 3.3 The Act states that when carrying out calculations that apply to political balance on committees, only those elected members who are members of political groups are to be counted. However, the Authority can determine whether it wishes to allocate a seat(s) to a member not part of a political group on such committees as the Authority deems necessary by passing a resolution with no Members voting against.

- 3.4 At the meeting of the Shadow Authority held on 4 June 2020, the composition of the political groups was as follows, with a total of 151 councillors:

Group	Conservative	Labour	Independent	Liberal Democrat	<i>Unaligned</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cllrs	97	44	7	2	1	151
%	64.6	29.3	4.6	1.3	0.7	99.9
Committee Seats	16	7	2	0	NA	25
%	64	28	8	0	NA	100

- 3.5 Following recent changes to membership at the sovereign councils, the new composition of political groups is as follows, with a total of 148 councillors:

Group	Conservative	Labour	Independent	Liberal Democrat	<i>Unaligned</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cllrs	96	42	6	2	2	148
%	64.8	28.3	4.0	1.4	1.4	99.9
Committee Seats	16	7	1	1	NA	25
%	64.0	28.0	4.0	4.0	NA	100

- 3.6 The following principles must be applied in allocating committee places, in order of priority:

3.6.1 That not all seats on any committee are allocated to the same political group;

3.6.2 That the majority of seats on all committees are allocated to the political group that has a majority of the Shadow Authority's membership or as otherwise reflects the make-up of the Shadow Authority;

3.6.3 That subject to 3.6.1. and 3.6.2 above, the number of seats for all main committees which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the main committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Shadow Authority; and

3.6.4 Subject to 3.6.3 the numbers of seats on the individual Committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of seats of that Committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to their membership of the Authority.

- 3.7 There are 25 allocated Committee places which must now be allocated as follows: 16 Conservative, 7 Labour, 1 Independent Group, and 1 Liberal Democrat Group.

3.8 The allocation of seats for the recognised groups between the Committees is now as follows:

Group/ Committee	Conservative	Labour	Independent	Liberal Democrat	Total
	Entitled (Allocated)	Entitled (Allocated)	Entitled (Allocated)	Entitled (Allocated)	
Overview and Scrutiny Cttee	8.43 (8)	3.69 (4)	0.53 (1)	0.18 (0)	(13)
Senior Appointments Committee*	3.24 (4)	1.41 (1)	0.2 (0)	0.07 (0)	(5)
Standards Committee	4,54 (4)	1.99 (2)	0.28 (0)	0.09 (1)	(7)
Total	16.22 (16)	7.09 (7)	1.01 (1)	0.34 (1)	(25)

* It should be noted that under Article 8 of the Authority's Constitution there is a requirement for at least one member of the Senior Appointments Committee to also be a member of the Shadow Executive Committee.

3.9 The group leaders are requested to inform the interim monitoring officer of revised memberships of Committees within 7 days of this meeting of the Shadow Authority.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 None specifically.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 None

4.3 Legal

4.2.1 The Shadow Authority has obligations under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocations of seats.

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 None specifically.

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