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Democratic Services
The Corby Cube,
George Street,
Corby,
Northants,
NN17 1QG

Meeting: Council
Date: Thursday 7th March, 2024
Time: 6.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, NN17 1QG

Committee Membership:

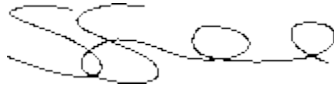
Councillor Barbara Jenney (Chair), Councillor Lora Lawman (Vice-Chair), Councillor Jean Addison, Councillor Tim Allebone, Councillor Valerie Anslow, Councillor Ross Armour, Councillor Paul Bell, Councillor Charlie Best, Councillor Matt Binley, Councillor Jennie Bone, Councillor David Brackenbury, Councillor Wendy Brackenbury, Councillor Scott Brown, Councillor Cedwien Brown, Councillor Leanne Buckingham, Councillor Lyn Buckingham, Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Councillor Jon-Paul Carr, Councillor Robin Carter, Councillor Melanie Coleman, Councillor William Colquhoun, Councillor John Currall, Councillor Alison Dalziel, Councillor Mark Dearing, Councillor Dez Dell, Councillor Scott Edwards, Councillor Jonathan Ekins, Councillor Emily Fedorowycz, Councillor Martin Griffiths, Councillor Jim Hakewill, Councillor Clive Hallam, Councillor Ken Harrington, Councillor Helen Harrison, Councillor Kirk Harrison, Councillor Larry Henson, Councillor Helen Howell, Councillor David Howes, Councillor Philip Irwin, Councillor Bert Jackson, Councillor Ian Jelley, Councillor Matt Keane, Councillor King Lawal, Councillor Graham Lawman, Councillor Anne Lee, Councillor Richard Levell, Councillor Paul Marks, Councillor Dorothy Maxwell, Councillor Peter McEwan, Councillor John McGhee, Councillor Zoe McGhee, Councillor Andy Mercer, Councillor Gill Mercer, Councillor Macaulay Nichol, Councillor Steven North, Councillor Jan O'Hara, Councillor Dr Anup Pandey, Councillor Tom Partridge-Underwood, Councillor Mark Pengelly, Councillor Harriet Pentland, Councillor Roger Powell, Councillor Elliot Prentice, Councillor Simon Rielly, Councillor Russell Roberts, Councillor Mark Rowley, Councillor Geoff Shacklock, Councillor David Sims, Councillor Jason Smithers, Councillor Chris Smith-Haynes, Councillor Joseph John Smyth, Councillor Sarah Tubbs, Councillor Michael Tye, Councillor Malcolm Ward, Councillor Malcolm Waters, Councillor Andrew Weatherill, Councillor Keli Watts, Councillor Kevin Watt and Councillor Lee Wilkes

Agenda Supplement

The following additional report has now been published which was not available at the time the agenda was published.

Item	Subject	Page no.
09.	Addendum - Political Balance on Council Committees To approve the revised allocation of seats for committees	3 - 12

Sanjit Sull, Monitoring Officer
North Northamptonshire Council



Proper Officer
Wednesday 6 March 2024

This supplementary agenda has been published by Democratic Services.

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Members' Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of their duty to ensure they abide by the approved Member Code of Conduct whilst undertaking their role as a Councillor. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, you must declare the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but must not take part in any vote on the matter unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** your own financial interest (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) or **relates to** a financial interest of a relative, friend or close associate, you must disclose the interest and not vote on the matter unless granted a dispensation. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.

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If Members have any queries as to whether a Declaration of Interest should be made please contact the Monitoring Officer at – monitoringofficer@northnorthants.gov.uk

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Full Council 7th March 2024

Report Title	Addendum to Report - Political Balance on Council Committees
Report Author	Sanjit Sull, Monitoring Officer Sanjit.Sull@northnorthants.gov.uk Ben Smith, Head of Democratic Services Ben.smith@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council

Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	Not Applicable
Which Corporate Plan priority does the report most closely align with? Our priorities for the future North Northamptonshire Council (northnorthants.gov.uk)	Modern Public Services

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Proportionality Allocations

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This addendum report sets out a number of additional changes to Group appointments following the issuing of the original report on 28th February 2024. This addendum report therefore encompasses both the changes in the original report and those notified to the Monitoring Officer since that date. Councillors are advised to disregard the contents of the original report and consider this addendum as a replacement.
- 1.2 This report confirms the methodology proposed to be applied to determine the revised political balance of the authority following the recent changes on the Council, set out below:-
- i) The sad passing of Cllr Mike Tebbutt;

ii) Cllr Elliot Prentice joining the Labour Group;

iii) Cllrs Cedwien Brown (Group Leader), Jim Hakewill (Deputy Leader), Martin Griffiths and Joseph Smyth forming a new Independent Alliance Group on the Council.

1.3 It also proposes the apportionment of seats on committees in accordance with the application of the calculations.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The political balance on Council Committees was last reported to the annual meeting of Council on 25th May 2023. This report sets out the revised political balance of the council as of 5th March 2024, how many voting seats are available on committees and the political group nominations available for allocation to those seats.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Council approves the revised allocation of seats for the committees set out in Addendum Appendix A to the recognised political groups, in accordance with statutory proportionality requirements and the Constitution.

3.2 *Reason for Recommendations – To ensure that the revised political balance of the Council is applied to the governance structure of the Council, in accordance with law and approved guidelines contained in the Council Constitution.*

3.3 *Alternative Options Considered – None, as the revised political balance calculation is required to be reported to full Council under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.*

4. Report Background

4.1 The Council must allocate seats on committees and sub-committees in accordance with the provisions set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the 1989 Act”). Section 15(5) of the 1989 Act requires the Council to allocate seats on committees and sub-committees to political groups to give effect, as far as possible, to the following principles:

a) not all the seats on the committee or sub-committee are allocated to the same political group (if the rules apply to that body);

b) that the political group having a majority of seats on the Council should have a majority on each committee and sub-committee;

- c) that, subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the Council's committees and sub-committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total number of such committee seats as the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the full Council; and
- d) that, subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, seats are allocated on each committee and sub-committee in the same ratio as exists on the authority.

4.2 Section 16 of the 1989 Act requires the Council to give effect to the allocation of seats determined as set out above in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.

4.3 The Council can only depart from the principles set out above by passing a resolution with no member voting against the resolution.

4.4. Council will note that the political balance provisions only apply directly to committees and sub-committees and do not apply to the following:

- a) The Executive;
- b) Bodies established by the Executive (e.g., Executive Advisory Panels, although Council has agreed that they may be applied subject to appointment by the Leader);
- c) Health and Wellbeing Board;
- d) Joint bodies established by the Executive.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 Council last received an update on political balance at its annual meeting on 25th May 2023, when the political group composition was as follows:-

	Council	Conservative	Labour	Green Alliance
Members	78	56	16	5
%	100	72.73	20.78	6.49

5.2 Following the group changes detailed in section 1.2 of this report, the political group composition is now as follows:-

	Council	Conservative	Labour	Green Alliance	Independent Alliance	<i>Vacant Seat</i>
Members	78	52	17	4	4	1
%	100	66.67	21.79	5.13	5.13	1.28

- 5.3. Addendum Appendix A sets out the breakdown of the allocation of seats to the political groups in accordance with the above percentages, taking account of the law and the provisions of the Constitution.
- 5.4. Council has already determined that the membership of the two strategic Area Planning Committees (each representing roughly half of the council area) should reflect the political balance of each local area only.
- 5.5. It should be noted that some appointments are made by the Leader of the Council and cannot therefore be made by full Council.
- 5.6. The recognised political groups will be invited to submit their nominations for the revised committee seats allocated to them to the monitoring officer.
- 5.7. Should a member or members not form a group, those members are not entitled to a seat unless a unanimous decision is made by Council to allocate them committee seats.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 Arising from appointments to committees made by Group Leaders, Democratic Services will provide details of revised committee appointments, dates of meetings and any training requirements to the new committee members.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

7.2. Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 The Council must allocate seats on committees and other prescribed bodies to give effect to political balance rules set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1 The Council's meeting procedure rules (Part 3.2 of the Constitution) sets out that it is the responsibility of full Council to approve the allocation of seats in accordance with political balance rules.
- 7.3.2 The terms of reference for Area Planning Committees (Part 4.3 of the Constitution) sets out the requirement for political balance to be drawn from within each of the defined planning committee areas.

7.4. Risk

7.4.1 Council is required to determine the arrangements for committees and subcommittees, and to approve the allocation of seats with adherence to the law and approved local choices detailed within the approved Constitution. Failure to comply with such a statutory requirement could leave the Council open to successful legal challenge and disrupt the decision-making process.

7.5. Consultation

7.5.1 The recognised political groups have been notified of the changes to political balance during the preparation of this report.

7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1. Not applicable

7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1. Not applicable

7.8. Equality Implications

7.8.1. There are no discernible equality implications arising from the contents of this report.

7.9. Climate and Environment Impact

7.9.1. Not applicable to this report.

7.10. Community Impact

7.10.1. Not applicable to this report.

7.11. Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1. Not applicable to this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 [Report to Annual Council, 25th May 2023 - Committee Membership and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs of Committees \(Minute 236 refers\)](#)

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Addendum Appendix A - Proportionality Allocations

Changes since Last Political Balance Calculation

It is a legislative duty to review political balance if there have been changes to membership since the last calculation. Since political balance was calculated last, there have been the following changes:-

- The sad passing of Cllr Mike Tebbutt;
- Cllr Elliot Prentice joining the Labour Group;
- Cllrs Cedwien Brown (Group Leader), Jim Hakewill (Deputy Leader), Martin Griffiths and Joseph Smyth forming a new Independent Alliance Group on the Council.

This has had the effect of:-

- reducing the number of Conservative Group seats on the Council by four councillors;
- increasing the number of Labour seats by one councillor;
- reducing the number of Green Alliance seats by one councillor;
- Creating a new Independent Alliance Group with 4 councillor seats.

Political Proportionality for the whole council of 78 members and recognised groups

Only recognised groups (2 or more members) are entitled to seats on Committees. Independent members could be allocated if there was a unanimous vote of the Council. This table sets out the political makeup of the Council, noting there is currently one vacant seat subject to a by-election.

	Number of Members	Percentage
Conservative Group	52	66.67%
Labour Group	17	21.79%
Green Alliance Group	4	5.13%
Independent Alliance Group	4	5.13%
<i>Vacant Seats</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1.28 %</i>
TOTAL	78	100 %

Seats available on Ordinary Committees

The Council has 82 seats available on Ordinary Committees which are Scrutiny Management Board (6), Corporate Scrutiny Committee (9), Health Scrutiny Committee (9), Place and Environment Scrutiny (9), Audit and Governance Committee (10), Democracy and Standards Committee (13), Employment Committee (13), Licensing and Appeals Committee (13).

The political proportionality for the Political Groups, as set out above, equate to the total number of seats set out in the table below.

- *Area Committees are excluded from these Ordinary Committee calculations as it is a legislative requirement that they are based on local political proportionality;*
- *Executive Committees/Executive Advisory Panels are excluded from this calculation as appointments are an Executive function rather than a Council one.*

	Allocated Seats
Conservative Group	54.66 seats (previously 59.64 seats) rounded up to 55 seats
Labour Group	17.87 seats (previously 17.04 seats) rounded up to 18 seats
Green Alliance Group	4.21 seats (previously 5.32 seats) rounded down to 4 seats
Independent Alliance Group	4.21 seats rounded down to 4 seats
<i>[Vacant Seats]</i>	<i>[1.05 seats rounded down to 1 seat]</i>
TOTAL	82

Seats available on Area Planning Committees

The Council has 13 seats available on Area Planning Committee North and 13 seats available on Area Planning South. The entitlement for each committee is now as follows:-

Area Planning North

	Allocated Seats
Conservative	5.78 seats (previously 7.22 seats) rounded up to 6 seats.
Labour	4.91 seats (previously 4.33 seats) rounded up to 5 seats.
Green Alliance	1.15 seats (previously 1.44 seats) rounded down to 1 seat
Independent Alliance	0.87 seats rounded up to 1 seat
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>0.29 seats rounded down to 0 seats</i>
TOTAL	13

Area Planning South

	Allocated Seats
Conservative	13 seats (previously 13 seats)
Labour	0 seats (previously 0 seats)
Green Alliance	0 seats (previously 0 seats)
Independent Alliance	0 seats
TOTAL	13

Recommendations

- a) That in order to maintain political balance on Ordinary Committees, the revised distribution of seats across the political groups will be as follows:-

Standing Committees (subject to political balance)	Total seats	Conservative	Labour	Green Alliance	Independent Alliance	Vacant Seat
Scrutiny Management Board	6	4	1	0	0	1
Corporate Scrutiny	9	6	2	0	1	
Health Scrutiny	9	6	2	1	0	
Place & Environment Scrutiny	9	6	2	1	0	
Audit and Governance	10	7	2	0	1	
Democracy and Standards	13	9	3	1	0	
Employment	13	8	3	1	1	
Licensing and Appeals	13	9	3	0	1	
<i>Total Seat Entitlement</i>		<i>55</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>
Total Seats	82	55	18	4	4	1

- b) That in order to maintain political balance on Area Planning Committees, the revised distribution of seats across the political groups will be as follows:-

Area Planning Committees (local political balance is required)		Conservative	Labour	Green Alliance	Independent Alliance
Area Planning North	13 total	6	5	1	1
Area Planning South	13 total	13	0	0	0

- c) That changes in the leadership arrangements of the recognised political groups for the municipal year 2023/24 be noted as follows:-

- Deputy Leader of the Green Alliance Group – Councillor Charlie Best
- Leader of the Independent Alliance Group – Councillor Cedwien Brown

- Deputy Leader of the Independent Alliance Group – Councillor Jim Hakewill
- d) In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, it be noted that any changes to places on committees arising from the new political balance will be made by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the leaders of the political groups represented on the Council.