

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL - THURSDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2024

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The Council is requested to note the change in political group affiliation of Councillor Victor and consider the impact of the change on the composition of committees.

1.1.1 Councillor Victor is no longer a member of the Opposition Coalition Group with effect from 9 February 2024 and will be an Independent Member.

1.2 The Council is recommended to:

1.2.1 note, following notification to the Chief Executive of the change in political group affiliation of Councillor Victor, the following numbers:

- The Administration has 46 members (comprising Scottish Conservative and Unionist (25), Liberal Democrats (14) and Administration Independents (7)),
- The Opposition Coalition has 22 members (comprising SNP (20 (previously 21)) and the Democratic Independent Group (2)); and
- There are two Independent members (previously one).

1.2.2 note that as a result of the notification outlined at recommendation 1.2.1 above no amendment is required in respect of –

- the composition of the four Policy Committees and the Audit Committee, having regard to the principle of each member being allocated one committee place, and
- the political proportionality for the current standard 14 member, 8 member and 5 member committees and for sub-committees and working groups as approved by Full Council on 19 May, 2022.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 The Council at its meeting on 19 May, 2022 (Item 9) approved the allocation of places and the appointment of members to committees, sub-committees, joint committees and working groups to reflect the political proportionality of the Council.

2.2 Following the change in political affiliation of Councillor Victor, the Administration has 46 members (comprising Scottish Conservative and Unionist (25), Liberal Democrats (14) and Administration Independents (7), the Opposition Coalition has 22 members (comprising SNP (20 (previously 21)) and the Democratic Independent Group (2), and there are two Independent member (previously one)).

2.3 The overall percentages are -

Total Members		
Scottish Conservative and Unionist, Liberal Democrat, Administration Independents	46/70	65.71%
Scottish National Party and Democratic Independent Group	22/70	31.42%
Individual	2/70	2.85%

2.4 This provides the following percentages for standard 14, 8 and 5 member Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups -

Groups	14 member		8 member		5 member	
Administration	65.71% x 14 = 9.2	9	65.71% x 8 = 5.3	5	65.71% x 5 = 3.3	3
Opposition Coalition	31.42% x 14 = 4.4	5	31.42% x 8 = 2.5	3	31.42% x 5 = 1.6	2
Individual	2.85% x 14 = 0.4	0	2.85% x 8 = 0.2	0	2.85% x 5 = 0.1	0
Totals		14		8		5

It should be borne in mind that achieve political balance is never an exact science since percentages and whole places on committees rarely precisely coincide. Rounding up and down has to be accommodated but the proposal to make no changes is offered as a fair and reasonable means of achieving political proportionality and at the same time a workable structure for a council of 70 members.

3 Discussion

3.1 As the overall percentages are only slightly altered as previously reported and as applied to the current composition of the four Policy Committees and the Audit Committee, having regard to the principle of each member being allocated one committee place, and to places on 14, 8 and 5 member committees, no amendment is required as a result of the notification received. It is for the Council to decide which Committees are constituted in which way so

as to reflect the political proportionality as well as honouring the Council's One Member, One Committee decision.

3.2 The current composition of the Policy Committees and Audit Committee is as follows:-

	Business Services	Education and Children's	Infrastructure Services	Communities	Audit	Total
Administration	9	9	10	9	9	46
Opposition Coalition	4	5	4	5	4	22 (-1)
Independent	1	0	0	0	1	2 (+1)

3.3 Councillor Victor is a substantive member of the Business Services Committee and accordingly, the Opposition Coalition would only have four places with there being one Independent place in terms of the proposal.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report helps deliver the Council's Strategic Priorities by ensuring transparency in decision making.

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Learning for Life Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Climate Change Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economic Growth Infrastructure and public assets

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing			X
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			X

Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

- 4.3 There are no staffing or financial implications relating to this report.
- 4.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken because the changes proposed are procedural matters and do not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

[Aberdeenshire Corporate Risks](#)

ACORP006 – Reputation Management

[Business Services Directorate Risks](#)

BSSR007 – Council Transition

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer within Business Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 Section A.2.1 of the List of Committee Powers at Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance requires any changes in committee structure and appointments to be determined by Full Council.

Rob Simpson

Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Lynsey Kimmitt, Principal Committee Services Officer

14 February 2024