

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Council
DATE:	29 June 2011
DIRECTOR:	Stewart Carruth
TITLE OF REPORT:	Committee Places, Appointment of Conveners, Vice Conveners and Depute Provost, and Representation on various Outside Bodies, Boards and Trusts
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/11/081

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report asks the Council to consider the composition of its Committees following the recent by-election results, and to take a number of decisions on outstanding issues relating to various positions.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Council:-

- (a) agree the composition of the various Committees, being guided by the indicative calculations as outlined in section 6.2 of the report;
- (b) agree the composition of the Urgent Business Committee;
- (c) appoint members to those Committees;
- (d) approve the appointments of the Depute Provost, Conveners and Vice Conveners as set out in section 6.3 of the report, suspending Standing Order 1(3) where applicable; and
- (e) appoint replacement members for the vacant positions as outlined in section 6.4 of the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications associated with this report are minimal. Approval of the various changes to Conveners, Vice Conveners and the Depute Provost will require to be reflected in the Senior Councillor allowances.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Approval of the report will ensure that the Council's decision making body will reflect the political landscape following the by-elections. Filling the various vacancies on outside bodies, boards and trusts should satisfy the wider

community, where such bodies, boards and trusts request the presence of elected members.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Officers in Corporate Governance will undertake the various tasks associated with the changes to be made as a result of this report.

6. REPORT

6.1 By-election Results

As members will be aware, the Council held a by-election on 19th May 2011, and on 20th May, Councillor Neil MacGregor was elected to Aberdeen City Council in the Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone ward.

A further by-election is to take place on 23rd June 2011, and on 24th June, a new Councillor will be elected to Aberdeen City Council in the Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee ward.

Following these by-elections, the political make-up of the Council will have altered as discussed below.

6.2 Composition and Membership

Standing Order 29(1) provides that in appointing Committees and Sub-Committees, the Council shall, so far as possible, give effect to the principles regarding political balance set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Although the statute itself is not in force, this Council has always considered it a matter of best practice to adhere to the principles.

Section 15 of the Act provides that in allocating seats on ordinary Committees to political groups, three principles are to be observed:-

- (a) not all the seats of the body are to be allocated to a particular group;
- (b) the majority of seats on the body are to be allocated to the group having a majority of seats on the Council; and
- (c) the number of seats on ordinary Committees which are allocated to each group bears the same proportion to the total number of seats on those Committees as the number of seats held by the group on the Council does to the whole membership of the Council.

Current position (prior to second by-election result):-

SNP	- 14 members	(14/43 = 32.6%)
Liberal Democrat	- 13 members	(13/43 = 30.2%)
Labour	- 10 members	(10/43 = 23.3%)

Aberdeen Conservative	- 2 members	(2/43 = 4.7%)
Conservative	- 2 members	(2/43 = 4.7%)
Independent	- 1 member	(1/43 = 2.3%)

The Act does not require that the allocation of seats in any particular Committee should follow these proportions, so long as the aggregate allocation across all of the Committees is correct.

The Council at its meeting of 19th August 2009, agreed the following sizes for its Committees.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Size</u>
Social Care and Wellbeing	15
Education, Culture and Sport	18
Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure	15
Development Management Sub Committee	11
Housing and Environment	15
Audit and Risk	15
Corporate Policy and Performance	15
Finance and Resources	15
Appeals	9
Licensing	<u>15</u>
Total	<u>143</u>

The total Committee places available relating to this report is 143, therefore, the following political calculation illustrates the number of Committee places available to each political group and the independent member on the Council - this is on an approximate basis as figures are rounded to the nearest whole number. It is important to emphasise that these are only indicative figures, and the position will change once the result of the second by-election is known.

<u>Political Group</u>	<u>Calculation</u>	<u>Number of Places</u>
SNP	(14/43) x 143	47
Liberal Democrat	(13/43) x 143	43
Labour	(10/43) x 143	33
Aberdeen Conservative	(2/43) x 143	7
Conservative	(2/43) x 143	7
Independent	(1/43) x 143	<u>3</u>
		<u>140</u>

This leaves approximately three places vacant for the last remaining member, depending on the outcome of the second by-election.

The Pensions Panel is regarded as one of the Council's Regulatory Committees, however the report does not propose any changes to the number of members on it nor its composition.

The Urgent Business Committee currently has 13 members and the Council may wish to consider its composition.

It is up to the Council to determine the allocation of the Committee places, and thereafter the political groups to notify the Head of Legal and Democratic Services of their changes to reflect the results of the by-elections.

6.3 Appointment of Depute Provost, Conveners and Vice Conveners

Following the election of Councillors Mark McDonald and Kevin Stewart as Members of the Scottish Parliament, as a result of the Scottish Parliament election on 4th May 2011, the SNP Group on the Council has proposed changes to its Senior Councillor positions. These are outlined below - where there is a change to the position holder (indicated in bold) this requires to be approved by the Council via the suspension of Standing Order 1(3).

Committee Conveners

Finance and Resources

Education, Culture and Sport

Social Care and Wellbeing

Licensing Board

Councillor McCaig

Councillor John West

Councillor Kiddie

Councillor Jaffrey

Vice Conveners

Corporate Policy and Performance

Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure

Housing and Environment

Licensing Committee

Grampian Fire and Rescue Board

Councillor Noble

Councillor Corall

Councillor Dunbar

Councillor Kirsty West

Councillor Wendy Stuart

Other Positions

Depute Provost

Baillie

Councillor Cormie

Councillor Jaffrey

6.4 Appointments to Outside Bodies, Boards, Trusts and Groups

A number of changes also require to be made in relation to Outside Bodies, Boards, Trusts and Groups.

Councillor Kevin Stewart MSP has resigned as a member of the following Boards, and requires to be replaced by the Council:-

- NEM (SITA) Management Board
- City Garden Project Management Board
- Aberdeen Business Improvement District Board

Councillor Leslie has resigned as a member of the following Outside Bodies, and requires to be replaced by the Council:-

- Northern Community Justice Authority (substitute member)
- Community Health Partnership
- Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

- Alcohol Support Limited

Former Councillor Clark requires to be replaced in relation to the following positions:-

- Licensing Board
- Older People's Advisory Group (Chairperson)
- Sports Ground Advisory Group
- Taxi Consultation Group
- Aberdeen Airport Consultative Committee (as local member)
- Aberdeen Committee for Older People (Council appointment)
- Aberdeen International Football Festival
- Aberdeen Outdoor Access Forum (substitute) (Council appointment)
- General Committee for Older People's Week (Council appointment)
- Gordon Highlanders Museum Board (Council appointment)
- Grampian Joint Older People's Strategy (Council appointment)
- National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection
- Royal Aberdeen Workshops for the Blind (Council appointment)

Former Councillor Cassie requires to be replaced in relation to the following position:-

- Garthdee Alpine Sports Board (as local member)

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.