

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	11 December 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Committee Places
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/24/353
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Vikki Cuthbert
REPORT AUTHOR	Martyn Orchard
TERMS OF REFERENCE	7

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the allocation of committee places following the resignation of Councillor Nicoll from the SNP group and the Partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:-

- 2.1 confirm the membership number for each of the Council's committees (as set out in paragraph 3.2) and set the composition for each committee, in terms of Standing Order 47.9.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Committee Places

- 3.1 In October 2024, Councillor Nicoll resigned from the SNP group and confirmed that he would be an independent Councillor. Consequently, the committee places Councillor Nicoll previously had as a Councillor within the Partnership reverted to the Partnership.
- 3.2 The current allocation of committee places, as agreed by Council on 8 February 2024, is below. Council should determine if changes are now required in respect of the total membership number for each committee and the composition of each committee.

Committee	Partnership	Labour	Conservative	Independent (x4)	Total
Anti-Poverty and Inequality	5	2	2	0	9

Committee	Partnership	Labour	Conservative	Independent (x4)	Total
Audit, Risk and Scrutiny	5	2	2	0	9
Communities, Housing and Public Protection	5	2	1	1	9
Education and Children's Services	8	2	2	1	13
Finance and Resources	5	2	2	0	9
Licensing Committee	5	2	1	1	9
Net Zero, Environment and Transport	5	2	1	1	9
Pensions	5	2	1	1	9
Planning Development Management	5	2	1	1	9
Staff Governance	5	2	1	1	9
Urgent Business	4	2	1	0	7
Integration Joint Board	3 (plus 2 subs)	1 (plus 1 sub)	0 (plus 1 sub)	0	4 (plus 4 subs)
Total:	60 (plus 2 subs)	23 (plus 1 sub)	15 (plus 1 sub)	7	105 (plus 4 subs)

3.3 The Council has traditionally followed the principles of section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 when allocating committee places. The principles of section 15 of the 1989 Act are:-

- (a) not all the seats on the body are to be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) the majority of the seats on the body are to be allocated to the group having a majority of seats on the Council; and
- (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, 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.

3.4 This section is not in force in Scotland. However, the Council has sought to give effect to the principles through Standing Order 47.9 which states that "The

Council will set the membership for each Committee and in doing so should have regard to the political composition of the Council”.

3.5 The membership of the Council is currently:-

Conservative	7 members
Independent	5 members
Labour	11 members
Liberal Democrat	4 members
SNP	18 members

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of the report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As noted above, section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 is not in force in Scotland. However, the Council has sought to give effect to the relevant principles through Standing Orders.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations of the report.

7. RISK

7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compliance	Council must comply with	The recommendations comply with the Scheme of Governance	L	Yes

	the Scheme of Governance			
Operational	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Financial	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reputational	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A

8. OUTCOMES

The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Vikki Cuthbert, Interim Chief Officer - Governance (Assurance) on 15 November 2024.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

None

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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