

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	8 October 2015
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Committee Places
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/15/043
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report brings before the Council proposals for amending Committee places following the results of the Midsocket/Rosemount and the George Street/Harbour by-elections held on 1 October 2015.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council -

- (a) approve the Committee places as contained within Appendix A;
- (b) agree that the composition of the Urgent Business Committee, Appeals Committee and Shadow Integration Joint Board remain unchanged;
- (c) agree that the composition of the Council's Sub Committees, Working Groups and Boards remain unchanged; and
- (d) appoint members to the following outside bodies to replace former Councillor Forsyth:-
  - Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
  - Aberdeen Domestic Abuse Partnership
  - Jack Wood Trust
  - Scottish Council for Single Homeless
  - Grampian Valuation Joint Board (substitute member)

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The report has minimal financial implications.

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Any changes agreed will be put in place by staff in Committee Services with immediate effect.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

As a result of the by-elections on 1 October 2015, the political composition of the Council is as follows:-

Labour - 17 members  
SNP - 16 members  
Liberal Democrat - 5 members  
Independent Alliance Group - 3 members  
Conservative - 2 members

The Administration (Labour/Independent Alliance/Conservative) has a majority of one.

The SNP Group require additional committee places to take account of the by-election results.

Section 15(5)(b) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 states *that the principles in relation to the seats on any body which fall to be filled by appointments made by any relevant authority or committee of a relevant authority are that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's memberships.*

In the above instance, the Administration represent the political group referred to, and they are therefore entitled to a majority of the seats on Committees. This makes exact proportionality impossible, as if all groups had the number of Committee places they were entitled to on a proportionate basis, the Administration would not have a majority of seats on all Committees.

To help minimise this anomaly, the Shadow Integration Joint Board has been taken out of the equation as there are only four Council places, and the Administration currently holds three of them (2 Labour, 1 SNP and 1 Conservative) which skews the figures. The Appeals Committee (3 Labour, 3 SNP, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Independent and 1 Conservative) and Urgent Business Committee (5 Labour, 5 SNP, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Independent and 1 Conservative) are not normally taken into account in terms of Committee places. It is proposed that the compositions of the Shadow Integration Joint Board, Appeals Committee and Urgent Business Committee remain unchanged.

Appendix A proposes revised Committee places. Broadly speaking, Finance, Policy and Resources, Audit, Risk and Scrutiny, Education and Children's Services, Communities, Housing and Infrastructure and Pensions are unchanged. The Planning Development Management, Licensing and Petitions Committees are all proposed to increase by two members to 17, 17 and 15 respectively.

Insofar as Sub Committees, Working Groups and Boards are concerned, it is proposed that the current compositions remain unchanged.

In regard to outside bodies, the SNP Group have already made appointments to the bodies that former Councillor May was previously appointed to. However, the following outside bodies require appointments in place of former Councillor Forsyth:-

- Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- Aberdeen Domestic Abuse Partnership
- Jack Wood Trust
- Scottish Council for Single Homeless
- Grampian Valuation Joint Board (substitute member)

## 6. IMPACT

This report is housekeeping in nature, however it may be of interest to the public as a result of the recent by-elections.

## 7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

If the Council failed to amend its committee places to take account of the by-election results, it would not be adhering to the principles of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in terms of political balance. However, it is noted that this is not a mandatory requirement due to those provisions of the 1989 Act having not been brought into force.

## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

## 9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Martyn Orchard  
Senior Committee Services Officer  
Legal and Democratic Services  
[morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
01224 523097

## Appendix A

	No. of members	Labour	SNP	Liberal Democrat	Independent	Conservative
<b>Finance, Policy and Resources</b>	17	7	6	2	1	1
<b>Audit, Risk and Scrutiny</b>	17	7	6	2	1	1
<b>Education and Children's Services</b>	19	8	7	2	1	1
<b>Communities, Housing and Infrastructure</b>	19	8	7	2	1	1
<b>Planning Development Management</b>	17	6	6	2	2	1
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	17	7	6	2	2	0
<b>Pensions</b>	9	3	3	1	1	1
<b>Petitions</b>	15	6	6	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	130	52	47	14	10	7