

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	26 April 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Committee Places
REPORT NUMBER	COM/23/116
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie, Director of Commissioning
CHIEF OFFICER	Jenni Lawson, Interim Chief Officer - Governance
REPORT AUTHOR	Martyn Orchard
TERMS OF REFERENCE	7

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the allocation of committee places following the result of the Council by-election of 23 February 2023 and other committee vacancies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:-

- 2.1 agree that three Conservative committee places transfer to Labour, these being one place on each of the following committees - Anti-Poverty and Inequality; Net Zero, Environment and Transport; and Planning Development Management; and
- 2.2 determine the composition of the Pensions Committee in light of the resignation of Councillor Mrs Stewart, and other vacancies.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 A by-election for the Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone ward took place on 23 February 2023 and Councillor Graeme Lawrence was elected. This resulted in the Labour Group gaining one elected member and the Conservative Group having one less elected member following the passing of Avril MacKenzie in December 2022.
- 3.2 The current allocation of committee places, as agreed by Council on 18 May 2022 and 25 August 2022, is as follows:-

Committee	Partnership	Labour	Conservative	Cllr Boulton	Cllr Mrs Stewart	Total
Anti-Poverty and Inequality	7	3	3	0	0	13
Audit, Risk and Scrutiny	7	3	2	0	1	13
Communities, Housing and Public Protection	7	3	2	0	1	13
Education and Children's Services	8	3	2	0	0	13
Finance and Resources	8	3	2	0	0	13
Licensing Committee	7	3	2	1	0	13
Net Zero, Environment and Transport	7	3	3	0	0	13
Pensions	7	3	2	0	1	13
Planning Development Management	7	3	2	1	0	13
Staff Governance	7	3	2	1	0	13
Urgent Business	4	2	1	0	0	7
Integration Joint Board	3 (plus 2 subs)	1 (plus 1 sub)	0 (plus 1 sub)	0	0	4 (plus 4 subs)
Total	79 (plus 2 subs)	33 (plus 1 sub)	23 (plus 1 sub)	3	3	141 (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 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.
- 3.4 This Section is not in force in Scotland. However, the Council has given effect to this 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 net effect of Labour gaining one elected member and the Conservatives having one less elected member, is that 3 Conservative committee places should transfer to Labour. The most obvious places would be those committees where the Conservatives currently have 3 places (Anti-Poverty and Inequality and Net Zero, Environment and Transport) and the Planning Development Management Committee where they currently have a vacancy.
- 3.6 In addition to the above, Councillor Mrs Stewart resigned from the Pensions Committee on 28 February 2023 and the Committee is also carrying two further vacancies as a result of the Labour Group not currently filling all of their allocated places at present.

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 chosen to give effect to it 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) <i>*taking into account controls/control actions</i>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compliance	Council must comply with legislation and the Scheme of Governance	The recommendations comply with statutory obligations and the Scheme of Governance	L	Yes
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	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

None

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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