

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| COMMITTEE | Council |
| DATE | 23 August 2023 |
| EXEMPT | No |
| CONFIDENTIAL | No |
| REPORT TITLE | Council Diary and Committee Places |
| REPORT NUMBER | COM/23/233 |
| DIRECTOR | Gale Beattie, Director of Commissioning |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Vikki Cuthbert, Interim Chief Officer - Governance (Assurance) |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Martyn Orchard |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 7 and 18 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval of the Council diary for 2024; and consider the allocation of committee places following the resignation of Councillor Crockett from the Labour group.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:-

- 2.1 approve the Council diary for 2024 appended to the report, making any changes as appropriate; and
- 2.2 agree that three Labour committee places transfer to Councillor Crockett and determine those committees.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The current committee structure and Council diary for 2023 was approved by Council at its meeting of 25 August 2022. This resulted in an extra cycle of meetings being introduced with effect from October 2022.
- 3.2 Whilst the committee structure has bedded in, it has been apparent that the extra cycle of meetings has created congestion for both elected members and officers which has put unnecessary pressure on limited resources, with some committees being light on business at certain times.
- 3.3 Consequently, the proposed diary for 2024, as contained at Appendix A, recommends the removal of a cycle of meetings, with meetings more spaced out throughout the year. It should be noted that the proposed changes do not impact on the scheduling of the Planning Development Management Committee and the Pensions Committee. Furthermore, the removal of a cycle

of meetings does not include Full Council, which, it is proposed, will continue to have six ordinary meetings per year plus the budget meeting. Notwithstanding the above, Standing Order 8.1 allows Conveners to arrange special meetings of Council, Committees or Sub Committees at any time subject to the provisions of Standing Order 10.1.

3.4 In late June 2023, Councillor Crockett announced his resignation from the Labour group and that he would be an independent Councillor. Consequently, the committee places Councillor Crockett previously had as a Labour Councillor reverted to the Labour group. Furthermore, the Council decision of 14 June 2023 resulted in Councillor Malik becoming Convener of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee, in place of Councillor Crockett, with effect from 28 June 2023.

3.5 The current allocation of committee places, as agreed by Council on 26 April 2023, is below. It is important to note that the decisions of the Labour group and Councillor Mrs Stewart to not take their allocated places on the Pensions Committee resulted in the Partnership having extra committee places and the Labour group and Councillor Mrs Stewart having fewer committee places. The Council decision, of 26 April 2023, with regard to this matter was:-

“to agree that should members of the Labour group, or Independent members wish to subsequently agree to take up their vacated positions and serve on the Pensions Committee, that their nomination be brought to the appropriate meeting of Council or Urgent Business Committee to have their positions reinstated.”

| Committee | Partnership | Labour | Conservative | Cllr Boulton | Cllr Mrs Stewart | Total |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Anti-Poverty and Inequality | 7 | 4 | 2 | 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 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13 |

| Committee | Partnership | Labour | Conservative | Cllr Boulton | Cllr Mrs Stewart | Total |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Pensions | 11 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Planning Development Management | 7 | 4 | 1 | 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 | 83 (plus 2 subs) | 33 (plus 1 sub) | 20 (plus 1 sub) | 3 | 2 | 141 (plus 4 subs) |

3.6 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.

3.7 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'.

3.8 The impact of Councillor Crockett resigning from the Labour group and becoming an independent Councillor means that 3 Labour committee places should transfer to Councillor Crockett. The Council is therefore requested to consider which committees those places should be on.

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) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small> | *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 | N/A | N/A | N/A |

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| | risks identified | | | |
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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

A - Council Diary 2024

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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