

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	16 April 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Committee Places
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/072
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 as a result of a change to the political composition of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:-

- 2.1 determine the membership number for each of the Council's committees (as listed in section 3.2) and thereafter set the composition for each committee, in terms of Standing Order 47.9.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 A report on the allocation of committee places was submitted to Council in December 2024, however the report was not considered until the Council meeting on 5 February 2025. This report was produced as a result of Councillor Nicoll becoming an Independent Councillor, and therefore no longer being a member of the Partnership.

- 3.2 At the Council meeting of 5 February 2025, the following allocation of committee places was agreed:-

Committee	Partnership	Labour	Conservative	Independent (x5)	Total
Anti-Poverty and Inequality	5	2	2	0	9
Audit, Risk and Scrutiny	5	2	2	0	9
Communities, Housing and Public Protection	5	2	1	1	9

Committee	Partnership	Labour	Conservative	Independent (x5)	Total
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 There has been a further change to the political composition of the Council since February 2025, with Councillor van Sweeden having re-joined the SNP Group and therefore the Partnership.

3.4 Councillor van Sweeden previously sat on three committees as an Independent Councillor:- Licensing Committee, Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee and Pensions Committee. Councillor Crockett has replaced Councillor van Sweeden on the Licensing and Pensions Committees; and Councillor Nicoll has replaced Councillor van Sweeden on the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee.

3.5 The Council is therefore requested to consider the allocation of committee places in light of the change to the political composition of the Council, noting that the composition in the table at 3.2 above is the current composition for members to review rather than a proposal from officers. This is consistent with previous reports regarding committee places. The wider issue was also the subject of discussion at the Governance Reference Group meeting on 12 March 2025, where there was agreement that officers should not recommend specific allocations as it was a matter for Council to determine.

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 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.

3.7 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*”.

3.8 The membership of the Council is currently:-

Conservative	7 members
Independent	4 members
Labour	11 members
Liberal Democrat	4 members
SNP	19 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 Scheme of Governance	The recommendations comply with 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	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Vikki Cuthbert, Interim Chief Officer - Governance (Assurance) on 20 March 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Previous reports to Council on committee places:-

- [Committee Places December 2024](#)
- [Committee Places December 2023](#)
- [Committee Places August 2023](#)
- [Committee Places April 2023](#)

11. APPENDICES

None

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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