

Full Council

22 February 2018

Review of Political Proportionality

For Decision

Brief holder:

Cllr A Reed, Corporate Affairs and Continuous Improvement

Senior Leadership Team Contact

S Caundle, Assistant Chief Executive

Statutory Authority

Local Government Act 1972, Local Government & Housing Act 1989

Purpose of Report

- 1 Following the results of the recent by-elections for Tophill East and Tophill West, to formally review the political proportionality of committee seats.

Officer Recommendations

- 2 That the scheme of political proportionality and the allocation of committee seats be adopted for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year, in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and as set out in the attached appendices.

Reason for Decision

- 3 To comply with the rules of political proportionality.

Background and Reason Decision Needed

- 4 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the Act”) requires the council to review the allocation of committee seats at certain times where the membership is divided into political groups. In determining the allocation to political groups the council must be guided by the following principles contained in the Act:-
 - (a) Not all seats on the committees can be allocated to one political party;
 - (b) 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 membership:

- (c) Subject to (a) and (b) the total number of place allocated on all committees must be proportionate to the political strength on the council as a whole:
 - (d) Subject to (c) the places on each committee must be proportionate to political strength.
- 5 The Act and subsequent regulations provide that appointments to committees must be made only in accordance with the wishes of the political groups; Full Council, therefore, has no discretion to appoint otherwise. Although Full Council is simply giving effect to the wishes of the political groups, it is technically making the appointments to the committees, and therefore discharging its duty under the Local Government Act 1097, the Local Government Act 1989 and regulations under the 1989 Act.

Consultation and Engagement

- 6 Political Group Leaders.

Appendices

- 7 Appendix 1 – Proportionality of allocation of committee seats (to follow)
Appendix 2 – Composition of committees (to follow)

Background Papers

- 8 None.

Footnote

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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