

Report To:	COUNCIL	Date:	13 FEBRUARY 2019
Heading:	CHANGES TO POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP		
Portfolio Holder:			
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

To consider the consequential impact of political proportionality on seats on the Council's Committees for the remainder of the 2018/19 local government year as a result of the By Election for the Sutton Junction & Harlow Wood Ward held on the 12 December 2018.

Recommendation(s)

That Council confirm the:

- 1. Number of places on each Committee of the Council;**
- 2. Politically proportional allocation of places on each Committee;**

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To comply with the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, requiring the Council to allocate places on its Committees in a politically proportional way.

Alternative Options Considered

No other options are appropriate as the Council has to comply with the need for political proportionality in the distribution of places on Council Committees.

Detailed Information

The Council is required by law to ensure that it allocates places on its Committees in a politically proportionate way. It does not apply to the Council's Executive, the Cabinet.

At the start of the year the Council is asked to allocate places on the relevant Committees in a politically proportionate way. This has been revisited following the By Election for the Sutton Junction & Harlow Wood Ward held on the 12 December 2018.

There are currently 82 Committee Seats available in total. Council is asked to make amendments to these allocations during the course of the year, as required to reflect any changes to its overall political composition.

Following the By Election, Ashfield Independents have gained 2 seats. This is reflected in the tables 1.1 & 1.2 below.

Fig 1.1 Allocation of Politically Proportional Seats on the Council's Committees Based on 82 Seats as at 12 December 2018 (Following the By Election).

Group	Seats on Council	Allocation of the '82' places subject to political proportionality
Labour	14	33
Ashfield Independents	12	28 (+2 From 26)
Conservative	5	12
Non-Aligned	4	9 (-2 From 11)

Following the By Election, changes to Number of seats are:

- Ashfield Independent seats increase by 2;
- Non Aligned Independent seats decrease by 2;
- Labour Seats on Council remain unchanged
- Conservative seats remain unchanged

In order to restore as far as possible political proportionality on the Council (for practical purposes some element of 'rounding' of the figures is required) allocation of places on Committees needs to be changed.

Fig 1.2 Allocation of Politically Proportional Places on Each of the Council's Committees Based on 82 Seats as at 12 December 2018 (Following the By Election).

	Labour	Ashfield Independents	Conservative	Non-Aligned
Planning	4	4	2	1
Licensing	4	4(+1)	2	1(-1)
Standards & Personnel Appeals	3	2	1	1
Local Plan Steering Group	4	4	1	2
Overview and Scrutiny	3	2	1	1
Scrutiny Panel A	3	2	1	1
Scrutiny Panel B	3	3	1	
Chief Officers Employment Committee	3	2	1	1
Charities	3	2	1	1
Audit Committee	3	3 (+1)	1	0 (-1)
Total	33	28 (+2)	12	9 (-2)

*Figures in brackets have already been incorporated into overall figure

Further Changes To Committee Membership

- Councillor Glenys Maxwell to come off the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and be appointed to the Licensing Committee;
- Councillor Christine Quinn-Wilcox to come off Scrutiny Panel B and be appointed to the Audit Committee.
- Councillor Matthew Relf be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel B

Implications

Corporate Plan:

There are no implications in respect of the Corporate Plan

Legal:

The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to allocate places on its committees in a politically proportional way.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Should the changes not be made to allocated places and political proportionality the Council would be contravening The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (which requires local authorities to allocate places on their committees in a politically proportionate way).	Committee Membership and Political Balance be altered accordingly.

Human Resources:

There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

Equalities:

There are no Equality implications arising from this report.

Other Implications:

None

Reason(s) for Urgency

None

Reason(s) for Exemption

None

Background Papers

None

Report Author and Contact Officer

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