

Report To:	COUNCIL
Date:	1 DECEMBER 2022
Heading:	CHANGES TO POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIPS
Executive Lead Member:	NOT APPLICABLE
Ward/s:	ALL
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

To consider the consequential impact of political proportionality, Committee Membership and membership on outside bodies following the appointment to office of Councillor Nicholas Parvin at the Hucknall Central By-Election, held on the 23 November 2022.

Recommendation(s):

Council is recommended to:

- a) Note the overall allocation of seats by group as detailed in Table A
- b) Note the allocation of seats on Committees detailed in Table B
- c) Appoint, where appropriate to the vacancies detailed in Table C
- d) Appoint, where appropriate, to the vacancies on Outside Bodies detailed in Table D

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

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

Alternative Options Considered

No other options were considered with respect to the consequential impact on seats on Committees/Panels as the Council is required to allocate places on its committees in a politically proportional way, in accordance with the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.

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 or as circumstances require, the Council is asked to allocate places on the relevant Committees in a politically proportionate way. There are 76 such places 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.

In order to restore as far as possible political proportionality on the Council (for practical purposes some element of 'rounding up' of the figures is required). Following the appointment of Councillor Nicholas Parvin (Ashfield Independents) for the Hucknall Central Ward, the number of places allocated to the Ashfield Independents is to be increased by 1 seat and the number of seats allocated to the Labour Group is decreased by 1 seat on Chief Officers Employment Committee.

Councillors that are not members of political groups have no entitlement to an allocation of seats on Committees. Political groups are entitled to their proportion of seats and once their entitlement has been reached, the remaining seats may be filled by Councillors not belonging to a political group.

This current allocation of politically proportional places on the Council are as follows:

Table A – Overall Allocation of Seats

Group	Seats on Council (35)	Allocation of the 76 places subject to political proportionality
Ashfield Independents	28	61
Conservative	3	7
Labour	2	4
Non-Aligned	2	4
Total	35	76

Table B – Allocation of Seats on Committees

Relevant Group Leaders to make appropriate changes to the Panels indicated below in red.

	Ashfield Independents	Conservatives	Labour	Non-Aligned
Planning	7	1	1	0
Licensing	7	1	0	1
Standards and Personnel	5	1	0	1
Local Plan Development Panel	7	1	1	0
Overview and Scrutiny	6	1	0	0
Scrutiny Panel A	6	0	1	0

Scrutiny Panel B	6	0	0	1
Chief Officers Employment Committee	6 (+1)	1	0 (-1)	0
Charities	5	0	1	1
Audit	6	1	0	0
Total	61	7	4	4

Table B demonstrates total number of seats available on each Committee for each group. It also indicates where the deductions or additions in group seats have been made as a consequence of changes to the number of Elected Members on Council.

Table C – Current Vacancies on Committees by Group

Panel / Committee	Vacancy by Group (to be appointed if Appropriate)
Scrutiny Panel B	1 Non-Aligned Independent (Cabinet Members cannot sit on Scrutiny)
Licensing	1 Non-Aligned Independent
Chief Officers	1 Ashfield Independent,
Standards and Personnel Appeals	1 Non-Aligned Independent

Table D – Current Vacancies on Outside Bodies

There are no vacancies on Outside Bodies.

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:

No financial implications contained in this report.

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
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Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Should the changes not be made to allocated seats 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.

Environmental/Sustainability:

There are no environmental or sustainability 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.

Report Author and Contact Officer

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