

Report of:	Strategic Director of Finance, Governance and Support
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AGENDA ITEM 14

Submitted to:	Council – 9 October 2019
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Subject:	Political Balance - Allocation of Places 2019 and registration of a new political group.
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
To recommend the allocation of places on committees and sub-committees for 2019 in accordance with the revised political balance of the Council and advise of the registration of a new political group.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Can be called-in:
Decision	No	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan		
Business Imperatives	Physical Regeneration	Social Regeneration
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Ward(s) affected
Not applicable

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To recommend the allocation of places on committees and sub-committees for 2019 in accordance with the revised political balance of the Council and advise of the registration of a new political group.

Why is this report necessary?

2. The report is necessary so that places on committees are allocated in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

3. That the allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the rules relating to political balance is approved and the registration of a new political group is noted.
4. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the Council periodically reviews the political composition of the Council, and how this is applied to appointments to committees and sub-committees of the Council.
5. The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
6. The Council is under a duty to:
 - (a) Ensure that the membership of those committees and sub-committees covered by the rules reflect the political composition of the Council, as far as practicable.
 - (b) Review the allocation of seats to political groups at or as soon as practical after the Annual Council meeting and at certain other specified times for example, as a result of changes in political balance or an increase in the number of committees established.
 - (c) Allocate seats on the committees to the political groups in proportion to their numerical strength on the Council, as far as practicable;
 - (d) Accept nominations made by the groups for the filling of seats allocated to them.
7. In determining the allocation of seats, the Council must also apply the following four principles, as far as reasonably practicable:
 - (a) Not all seats to be allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) If a political group has a majority on the Council, it must have a majority of seats on committees;
 - (c) Subject to (a) and (b) above, the total of all seats on ordinary committees be allocated to the groups in proportion to their respective strengths on the Council and
 - (d) Subject to (a) to (c) above the number of seats on ordinary committees or sub-committees to be allocated to each political group in proportion to the number of all

the seats on the committee or sub-committee in proportion to their respective strengths on the Council.

8. Independent Members who have not formed a political group in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, are to be allocated in accordance with section 16 (3) of the Regulations: i.e. any seats not allocated according to the requirements in section 15 and 16 of the Act, to be allocated to members who are not members of any political group.
9. Certain committees of the Council are exempt from the requirements relating to political balance as they are established under separate legislation. For this reason the following committees are not covered by the recommendations of this report. Where places are not reserved for particular members for example by virtue of their title or position, those remaining places have been allocated in accordance with the numbers shown in Table 3. These committees include:
 - The Executive
 - All Executive committees, sub-committees, working groups
 - South Tees Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Licensing Sub-Committees with the exception of the Licensing Sub-Committee (General) when dealing with licences under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.
10. Notification has been given to the Council of the establishment of a new political group, the Middlesbrough Independent Group (MIG). In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Council is required to allocate to each registered party the number of seats on Committees and certain other bodies so that they reflect the same proportion of the membership of the registered groups in the Council.
11. The total number of places on committees is **180** places and these will be allocated in a manner that reflects the overall political balance of the Council.
12. The calculations relating to the allocation of the **180** places on those committees to be subject to political balance rules are attached at Appendix 1.
13. As will be seen from Table 4 in Appendix 1, the outcome of applying the required method of calculation would result in the following:

Conservative - 8 seats

Labour - 78 seats

Middlesbrough Independent Group (MIG) - 27 seats

Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA) - 63 seats

Unallocated 4 seats

14. In line with usual practice, it is recommended that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend memberships of committees following resignations received from members and to appoint to vacancies in accordance with group preferences or, where not in a group, in accordance with individual Member's wishes. However, where more than one person (non- group members) applies for the same place, they should decide amongst themselves how those places should be allocated. If agreement cannot be reached between the individual Members, the Council will make that determination.

15. In order to avoid the need to completely recalculate all committee memberships in the case of an ad hoc (or other) committees being established prior to the next review, it is proposed that any committees or sub-committees be appointed on the basis of the places shown in Table 3 attached.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

16. No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

17. The Council must adhere to the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Financial

18. Not applicable

The Mayor's Vision for Middlesbrough

19. The report is line with the Mayor's vision for Middlesbrough

Policy Framework

20. The report does not impact on the overall budget and policy framework.

Wards

21. The report does not impact on wards

Equality and Diversity

23. An Impact Assessment has not been completed, as the changes will not adversely impact on any individual group.

Risk

24. Not applicable.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

25. Allocate places on Committees in accordance with Local Government legislation.

Appendices

Spreadsheet

Background papers

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990

Step 1 - Total places on those committees subject to rules of proportionality

Name of Committee		Places
Corporate Affairs & Audit Committee		7
Licensing Committee		14
Overview & Scrutiny Board		13
Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel		9
Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel		9
Children & Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel		9
Children & Young People's Social Care Services Scrutiny Panel		9
Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel		9
Economic Development, Environment & Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel		9
Health Scrutiny Panel		9
Planning & Development Committee		10
Staff Appeals Committee		9
Standards Committee		9
Teesside Pension Fund Committee		9
Chief Officer Appointments Committee		7
Corporate Health and Safety Committee		10
Teesside Pension Board		1
Works Council		10
Constitution and Members' Development Committee		9
Corporate Parenting Board		9
Total		180

Step 3 - Political balance according to size of committee

Formula: (Number in group x number on committee) ÷ number of members: 46

Table 3

Size of committee	Labour Group		Conservative Group		Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association		Marton Independent Group		Middlesbrough Independent Group		Unallocated
	20		2		16		0		7		1
1	0	0.43	0	0.04	0	0.35	0	0.00	0	0.15	1
3	1	1.30	0	0.13	1	1.04	0	0.00	0	0.46	1
4	2	1.74	0	0.17	1	1.39	0	0.00	1	0.61	0
5	2	2.17	0	0.22	2	1.74	0	0.00	1	0.76	0
6	3	2.61	0	0.26	2	2.09	0	0.00	1	0.91	0
7	3	3.04	0	0.30	2	2.43	0	0.00	1	1.07	1
8	3	3.48	0	0.35	3	2.78	0	0.00	1	1.22	1
9	4	3.91	0	0.39	3	3.13	0	0.00	1	1.37	1
10	4	4.35	0	0.43	3	3.48	0	0.00	2	1.52	1
11	5	4.78	0	0.48	4	3.83	0	0.00	2	1.67	0
12	5	5.22	1	0.52	4	4.17	0	0.00	2	1.83	0
13	6	5.65	1	0.57	5	4.52	0	0.00	2	1.98	-1
14	6	6.09	1	0.61	5	4.87	0	0.00	2	2.13	0
15	7	6.52	1	0.65	5	5.22	0	0.00	2	2.28	0
16	7	6.96	1	0.70	6	5.57	0	0.00	2	2.43	0

Step 4 - Apply figures in Table 3 to each committee

Table 4

	Total	Lab	Cons	MICA	Marlon	MIG	Unallocated
Corporate Affairs & Audit Committee	7	3	0	2	0	1	1
Licensing Committee	14	6	1	5	0	2	0
Overview & Scrutiny Board	13	6	1	5	0	2	-1
Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Children & Young People's Social Care Services Scrutiny Panel	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Economic Development, Environment & Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Planning & Development Committee	10	4	0	3	0	2	1
Staff Appeals Committee	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Standards Committee	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Teesside Pension Fund Committee	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Chief Officer Appointments Committee	7	3	0	2	0	1	1
Corporate Health and Safety Committee	10	4	0	3	0	2	1
Teesside Pension Board	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Works Council	10	4	0	3	0	2	1
Constitution and Members' Development Committee	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Corporate Parenting Board	9	4	0	3	0	1	1
Totals	180	78	2	59	0	24	17
Total Allocation Allowed (as per Step 2 above)		78	8	63	0	27	4
ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED		0	6	4	0	3	-13