

Name of meeting: Council

Date: 25 November 2020

Title of report: Allocation of Seats – Update

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No – it is not an executive decision
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Rachel Spencer-Henshall : 24 November 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Julie Muscroft : 24 November 2020
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Not applicable

Electoral wards affected: Not applicable

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private report: Public

Has GDPR been considered: Yes

## 1. Summary

To recommend that Council approve the adjustments in the allocation of Committee places, arising from a recent change in the membership of political groups.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

Following the resignation of Councillors Richard Murgatroyd, Rob Walker, Lesley Warner from the Labour Group resulting in a position of no overall political control, the allocation of places on Committees has been recalculated in order to ensure overall proportionality.

The revised figures reflect the Independent status of Councillors Richard Murgatroyd, Rob Walker, Lesley Warner, and also the recent resignation of Councillor Charlotte Goodwin from the Conservative Group, where the seat is now vacant.

The amended proportionality has been based upon the current composition of the Council which is as follows;

Labour Group	32 seats
Conservative Group	16 seats
Liberal Democrat Group	10 seats
Green Group	3 seats
Independent Group	3 seats
Dewsbury Borough Independents (Heavy Woollen District)	1 seat
Independents	3 seats

The revised allocation of seats to Committees and Panels is attached at Appendix 1.

## 3. Implications for the Council

### 3.1 Working with People

Not applicable.

### 3.2 Working with Partners

Not applicable.

### 3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

Not applicable.

### 3.4 Place Based Working

Not applicable.

### 3.5 Climate Change

Not applicable.

### 3.6 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

## **Legal**

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a duty on the Council to review the representation of political groups on its committees where the members of the Council are split into different political groups.

The Act requires that the Council should allocate seats on committees in accordance with the following principles set out in the Act.

Once political group allocations have been determined, it is the duty of the Council to exercise the power to make appointments committees to give effect to the nominations of the political groups concerned.

There are no financial or human resources implications associated with this report.

### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

The Group leaders of each political group have been consulted in relation to the proposed allocations.

### **5. Next steps**

Subject to the approval of Council, the changes will be implemented.

### **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

To comply with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated regulations in relation to the appointment of members to Committees in accordance with the political groups to which seats have been allocated.

It is recommended that Council approve as follows:-

- 1) That the allocation of seats to groups and to independent councillors be in accordance with the schedule as attached an Appendix A of the report and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to work with the independent councillors to finalise the allocation of the seats to the independent councillors and to advise the Head of Governance of the membership accordingly.
- 2) That the finalisation of the allocation of seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Panels be delegated to the Group Business Managers and to advise the Head of Governance on the allocation of the places accordingly.
- 3) That any changes to joint authorities or outside bodies are delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Group Business Managers and to advise the Head of Governance on the membership accordingly.

### **7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable.

### **8. Contact officer**

Samantha Lawton - [samantha.lawton@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.lawton@kirklees.gov.uk)  
Head of Governance

9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Not applicable.

10. **Service Director responsible**

Julie Muscroft – Legal, Governance and Commissioning