

**REPORT TITLE: Allocation of Seats - Update**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>6 March 2024</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b> (if applicable)	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Key Decision Eligible for Call In</b>	<b>No</b> <b>No – If no give reason –</b> Not an executive function/decision
<p><b>Purpose of Report</b>          To recommend that Council approve the adjustments in the allocation of Committee places, arising from a recent change in the membership of political groups and formation of the Kirklees Community Independents Group.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• That the finalisation of the allocation of seats on the Committees and Panels set out at Appendix A be delegated to the Group Business Managers and to advise the Acting Head of Governance on the allocation of the places accordingly.</li> <li>• That any changes to joint authorities or outside bodies be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Group Business Managers and to advise the Acting Head of Governance on the membership accordingly.</li> <li>• That Council consider the appointment to the position of Chair of Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel as set out at paragraph 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reasons for Recommendations</b>          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.</p>	
<p><b>Resource Implications:</b> The associated allowances for Group Leader and Group Business Manager arising from the formation of a new political grouping on the Council will be paid in line with the current Members Allowance Scheme and met from the current Members Allowances budget.</p>	
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	<b>Rachel Spencer Hensall 26.02.24</b>

<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>Julie Muscroft 23.02.24</b>

**Electoral wards affected: N/A**

**Ward councillors consulted: N/A**

**Public or private: Public**

**Has GDPR been considered? Yes**

**1. Executive Summary**

The report recommends that Council approve the adjustments in the allocation of Committee places, arising from a recent change in the membership of political groups and formation of the Kirklees Community Independents Group.

**2. Information required to take a decision**

Following the resignation of Councillors Ammar Anwar, Ebrahim Dockrat, Jo Lawson and Imran Safdar from the Labour Group and subsequent formation of the Kirklees Community Independents Group, the allocation of places on Committees has been recalculated in order to ensure overall proportionality.

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

Labour Group	35 seats
Conservative Group	18 seats
Liberal Democrat Group	8 seats
Kirklees Community Independents Group	4 seats
Green Group	3 seats
Independents	1 seat

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

Pursuant to the changes, Council are also asked to appoint a Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2023/24.

**3. Implications for the Council**

**3.1 Working with People**

Not applicable

**3.2 Working with Partners**

Not applicable

**3.3 Place Based Working**

Not applicable

**3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

Not applicable

### 3.5 **Improving outcomes for children**

Not applicable

### 3.6 **Financial Implications**

The associated allowances for Group Leader and Group Business Manager arising from the formation of a new political grouping on the Council will be paid in line with the current Members Allowances Scheme and met from the current Members Allowances budget.

### 3.7 **Legal Implications**

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 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.

### 3.8 **Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

## 4. **Consultation**

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

## 5. **Engagement**

## 6. **Options**

### 6.1 **Options considered**

### 6.2 **Reasons for recommended option**

To ensure that seat allocations reflect the changed composition of the Council.

## 7. **Next steps and timelines**

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

## 8. **Contact officer**

Leigh Webb – [leigh.webb@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:leigh.webb@kirklees.gov.uk)  
Acting Head of Governance

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

## 10. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Seat Allocation March 2024

## 11. **Service Director responsible**

Julie Muscroft – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

## **APPENDIX A**

<b>Committees/Panels/Boards</b>	<b>Total No. of members</b>	<b>Labour 35</b>	<b>Cons 18</b>	<b>Lib Dem 8</b>	<b>Ind Group 4</b>	<b>Greens 3</b>	<b>Ind 1</b>
Appeals Panel	15	8	4	2	1		
Statutory Officer Dismissal Committee	5	3	1	1			
Licensing and Safety Committee	15	8	4	2	1		
Standards Committee	7	4	2	1			
Personnel Committee	9	5	2	1	1		
Strategic Planning Committee	7	4	2	1			
District Wide Planning Committee	9	5	2	1	1		
Corporate Governance and Audit	7	4	2	1			
Overview and Scrutiny Panels x 4	24	13	6	3	1	1	