

REPORT FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 16TH JULY 2020	
REVIEW OF THE ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS	
Report of:	Lidia Harrison – Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Purpose of Report:	To enable the Council to determine a reallocation of seats (on committees) to political groups following a change in political balance.
Publication status:	Unrestricted.
Recommendations:	That: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. the allocation of seats to the Council’s ordinary Committees for the remainder of 2020/21 be amended as per the table in section 2 of this report; B. for the remainder of 2020/21, the size of the Licensing Committee be increased from 10 to 12 members comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Conservative councillors • 4 IND and OLRG councillors • 3 Liberal Democrat councillors • 1 Independent Group councillor; C. it be noted that, following consultation with Group Leaders (and subject to recommendations A and B being approved) the consequential membership of Committees and Sub-Committee will be as per Appendix A.
Appendices:	Appendix A – revised membership of Committees and Sub-Committees to be effective from 17 th July 2020.
Background papers defined by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985	None

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 15(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (‘the Act’) requires the Council, as soon as practicable after a change in political composition, to review the allocation of committee seats to political groups.
- 1.2 The political composition of the Council is currently 14 Conservative, 13 Independents and OLRG Alliance, 11 Liberal Democrats and 3 Independent Group. The allocation was last reviewed following the May 2019 local elections. Although the May 2020 elections were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a further review is now necessary arising from the combined impact of:
- the passing of ex-Councillor Harwood on 24th March 2020; and
 - Councillor Jecks’ transfer from the Conservative Group to the Independent Group with effect from 1st June 2020.

1.3 Consequently, the percentage entitlement to committee seats has changed as follows:

Table 1

Political Groups	From (following Annual Council on 21 st May 2019)		To (current position)	
	No of Councillors	% entitlement to committee seats*	No of Councillors	% entitlement to committee seats**
Conservative	16	38%	14	34%
OLRG Independents Alliance	13	31%	13	32%
Liberal Democrat	11	26%	11	27%
Independent Group	2	5%	3	7%
vacancies			1	

*No. of Cllrs in previous col. ÷ 42) x 100 rounded to nearest percentage point

**No. of Cllrs in previous col. ÷ 41) x 100 rounded to nearest percentage point

1.4 Section 15 of the Act (specifically subsections (3) to (5)) prescribes the Council's duty to allocate seats on committees to political groups. Such allocations, so far as is reasonably practicable, must be made in accordance with the following four principles:

- (a) not all the seats on an ordinary committee should be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) the majority of the seats on an ordinary committee must be allocated to the majority political group (however, there is no longer a 'majority political group' on the Council);
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on **the total** of all the ordinary committees allocated to each political group should bear the same proportion as that for the full Council; and
- (d) subject to (a) to (c) above, the number of seats on **each** ordinary committee allocated to each political group should bear the same proportion as that for the full Council.

1.5 The duty to allocate seats to political groups applies to so called 'ordinary committees' as defined by the Local Government Act 1972 (the Licensing Committee does not fall within this category – section 3 below also refers).

1.6 At present, the total number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Council is 74.

2. Proposed reduction and reallocation of seats

2.1 Table 2 below sets out a proposed reduction and reallocation of seats having regard to 1.4 and 1.5 above.

Table 2

'Ordinary' Committees:	Political Groups:				Total membership:
	Conservative	OLRG Independents Alliance	Lib Dem	Independent Group	
Community Services	4 (unchanged)	4 (unchanged)	3 (unchanged)	1 (currently 0)	12 (currently 11)
Housing	4 (currently 5)	4 (unchanged)	4 (currently 3)	0 (currently 1)	12 (currently 13)
Planning Policy	4 (currently 5)	4 (unchanged)	3 (unchanged)	1 (unchanged)	12 (currently 13)
Planning	4 (unchanged)	4 (unchanged)	3 (unchanged)	0 (unchanged)	11 (unchanged)
Overview & Scrutiny	2 (currently 3)	2 (unchanged)	2 (unchanged)	1 (unchanged)	7 (currently 8)
Standards	2 (unchanged)	1 (unchanged)	1 (unchanged)	1 (unchanged)	5 (unchanged)
Strategy & Resources	4 (currently 5)	4 (unchanged)	3 (currently 4)	1 (currently 0)	12 (currently 13)
Total seats on 'Ordinary' Committees	24 (from 28)	23 (unchanged)	19 (unchanged)	5 (from 4)	71 (currently 74)
Resulting actual % allocations across the above committees. i.e.: (committee seats ÷ 71) x 100))	33.8%	32.4%	26.8%	7%	
Target % allocations across the above committees (last col in Table 1 refers)	34.2%	31.7%	26.8%	7.3%	

2.2 The Chief Executive is under a duty, whenever such a review takes place, to submit a report to the Council showing what allocation of seats would, in her opinion, best meet the requirements of Section 15 of the 1989 Act.

2.3 Officers have sought confirmation from Group Leaders regarding the Councillors who will fill the places on committees to which their respective groups are entitled. It is clearly preferable if all Group Leaders have an agreed position as to which committee allocations are to be adjusted, provided that the agreed position does not conflict with the Council's duty, which is "to make only such determinations as give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the principles specified in subsection (5) of the Act".

3. Licensing Committee

3.1 As stated in 1.5 above, the Licensing Committee is not an 'ordinary committee' as it falls under the auspices of separate legislation, namely the Licensing Act 2003. Section 6(1) of that Act requires the Council, as the local licencing authority, to establish a Licensing Committee of at least 10 but not more than 15 Members. This Council's Licensing Committee currently comprises 10 Members:

- 4 x Conservative
- 3 x IND and OLRG
- 3 x Liberal Democrat

3.2 The Committee is not taken into account when calculating the distribution of seats under the proportionality rules. Although the Committee does not have to be politically balanced, Group Leaders have agreed that it should be. This can be achieved by increasing its size to 12 and allocating one of the additional seats to IND and OLRG, and the other to the Independent Group as per recommendation B above.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 The proposed committee allocations have been raised with the respective Group Leaders and are in keeping with the statutory requirements governing the political balance of committees.

4.2 Having taken into consideration the number of committees and seats available for the distribution of places between the Groups represented on the Council, the allocations proposed are considered to be the most appropriate.

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report. In particular, no additional costs will arise in connection with the Members Allowances' Scheme following the proposed re-distribution of committee seats.

----- end of report -----

TDC COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2020/21
to be effective from 17.07.20

Community Services Committee		
1	Conservative	Connolly (C)
2	Conservative	Milton
3	Conservative	Ridge
4	Conservative	Vickers (VC)
5	IND and OLRG	Stamp
6	IND and OLRG	Swann
7	IND and OLRG	N. White
8	IND and OLRG	Wren
9	Liberal Democrat	Lee
10	Liberal Democrat	Mansfield
11	Liberal Democrat	Orrick
12	Independent Group	Allen
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Blake-Thomas</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Mills</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Rujbally</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Pursehouse</i>

Regulatory Sub-Committee (parent Committee is Community Services)		
		Councillors:
1 st principal member	Con	Connolly
2 nd principal member	IND and OLRG	Stamp
3 rd principal member	Lib Dem	Mansfield
<p>In the event of one or more of the three principal members being unable to attend a Sub-Committee meeting, their places shall be filled by selecting substitutes from the main Committee.</p>		

Housing Committee		
1	Conservative	Fitzgerald (VC)
2	Conservative	Parker (C)
3	Conservative	Ridge
4	Conservative	Steeds
5	IND and OLRG	Langton
6	IND and OLRG	Mills
7	IND and OLRG	C. White
8	IND and OLRG	Wren
9	Liberal Democrat	D. Cooper
10	Liberal Democrat	Gray
11	Liberal Democrat	Jones
12	Liberal Democrat	Morrow
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Connolly</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Blackwell</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Orrick</i>

Licensing Committee		
1	Conservative	Cooley (VC)
2	Conservative	Parker
3	Conservative	Ridge
4	Conservative	Steeds (C)
5	IND and OLRG	Mills
6	IND and OLRG	Stamp
7	IND and OLRG	C. White
8	IND and OLRG	Wren
9	Liberal Democrat	Caulcott
10	Liberal Democrat	Orrick
11	Liberal Democrat	Rujbally
12	Independent Group	Allen
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Milton</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Farr</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Botten</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	

Licensing Sub-Committee (parent Committee is Licensing)		
1 st principal member	Con	Steeds
2 nd principal member	IND and OLRG	Stamp
3 rd principal member	Lib Dem	Botten
In the event of one or more of the three principal members being unable to attend a Sub-Committee meeting, their places shall be filled by selecting substitutes from the main Committee.		

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

(Chair to be appointed at the Committee's next meeting on 30th July 2020)

1	Conservative	Connolly
2	Conservative	Milton
3	IND and OLRG	Bourne
4	IND and OLRG	Davies
5	Liberal Democrat	D. Cooper
6	Liberal Democrat	Dennis
7	Independent Group	Allen (VC)
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Parker</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Sayer</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Jones</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Pursehouse</i>

Planning Committee

1	Conservative	Black (C)
2	Conservative	Bloore (VC)
3	Conservative	Duck
4	Conservative	Fitzgerald
5	IND and OLRG	Blackwell
6	IND and OLRG	Farr
7	IND and OLRG	Lockwood
8	IND and OLRG	C. White
9	Liberal Democrat	Gray
10	Liberal Democrat	Mansfield
11	Liberal Democrat	Morrow
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Ridge</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>N. White</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Botten</i>

Planning Policy Committee

1	Conservative	Duck (VC)
2	Conservative	Black
3	Conservative	Bloore
4	Conservative	Vickers
5	IND and OLRG	Farr
6	IND and OLRG	Lockwood
7	IND and OLRG	Sayer
8	IND and OLRG	Swann
9	Liberal Democrat	Botten
10	Liberal Democrat	Jones
11	Liberal Democrat	Dennis
12	Independent Group	Jecks (C)
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Elias</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Langton</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Mansfield</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Pursehouse</i>

Strategy & Resources Committee		
1	Conservative	M. Cooper (VC)
2	Conservative	Duck
3	Conservative	Elias (C)
4	Conservative	Milton
5	IND and OLRG	Bourne
6	IND and OLRG	Davies
7	IND and OLRG	Langton
8	IND and OLRG	Sayer
9	Liberal Democrat	Botten
10	Liberal Democrat	Caulcott
11	Liberal Democrat	Lee
12	Independent Group	Pursehouse
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Bloore</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Lockwood</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Orrick</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Jecks</i>

Chief Officer Sub-Committee (parent Committee is Strategy & Resources)		
1	Conservative	Elias
2	Conservative	Milton
3	IND and OLRG	Sayer
4	IND and OLRG	Wren
5	Liberal Democrat	Botten
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>to be nominated by the Leader of the Group</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>to be nominated by the Leader of the Group</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>to be nominated by the Leader of the Group</i>

Investment Sub-Committee (parent Committee is Strategy & Resources)		
1	Conservative	Cooper
2	Conservative	Elias (C)
3	IND and OLRG	Bourne
4	IND and OLRG	Davies
5	Liberal Democrat	Jones
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Milton</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Farr</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Botten</i>

Standards Committee		
1	Conservative	Milton
2	Conservative	Parker
3	IND and OLRG	N. White
4	Liberal Democrat	Caulcott
5	Independent Group	Pursehouse (C)
Independent Person: Shaun Mundy (until the end of the 2020/21 Municipal Year)		