



Council (Extraordinary)	Tuesday, 31 October 2017	Matter for Information and Decision
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Title: **Allocation of Vacant Seats on Committees
(Political Balance Following By-Election)**

Author(s): **Anne Court (Interim Chief Executive)**

1. Introduction

To agree changes to proportionality following the recent by-election and to appoint accordingly to the vacant seats on those affected Committees, Boards, Panels, Forums and Working Groups (collectively hereafter as "Committees") of the Council.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. The changes to proportionality arrangements, as set out at Appendix A, be approved.
- 2.2. In accordance with the proportionality arrangements, the necessary amendments and appointments be made to the memberships of those affected Committees and the Members to serve thereon, as set out at Appendix B.

3. Information

- 3.1. The resignation of Councillor Gurpal S Atwal in July 2017 led to a single vacancy in the Oadby Uplands Ward. A by-election was held on 21 September 2017 which saw the election of the candidate for the Liberal Democrats, Councillor Lily Kaufman.
- 3.2. As a result, there are vacant seats on some Committees of the Council (as set out at **Appendix B**) due to the shift in the political balance of the Council following this by-election (as set out at **Appendix A**) as summarised at paragraph 3.6 of this report.
- 3.3. The requirements as to political proportionality in the membership of committees are embodied in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 made under sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 3.4. It is a statutory requirement that where a relevant authority has a membership divided into different political groups, then the decision-making bodies on the Council must be proportional to the overall make-up of the Council. The Monitoring Officer has a statutory responsibility for ensuring the Council implements proportionality correctly.
- 3.5. In implementing proportionality correctly, consideration must be given to the following four principles as far as is reasonable practicable:
 - i. all the seats are not allocated to the same political group;
 - ii. the majority of the seats go to the political group in the majority on the full Council;
 - iii. subject to the above two principles, the total number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Authority are allocated to each political group in the same proportion as the group's representation on the full Council; and
 - iv. subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each committee are allocated to each political group in the same proportion as the group's

representation on the Council.

- 3.6. In summary, the following amendments to the memberships of the following affected Committees as a result of the recent by-election are hereby proposed:

	Variation (+/-)			
	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Labour	Independent
Policy, Finance and Development Committee	+1	NC	-1	NC
Service Delivery Committee	+1	NC	-1	NC
Development Control Committee	+1	NC	-1	NC
Appeals Panel	+1	NC	-1	NC

NC = No change

	No. of Members			
	Total	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent
Policy, Finance and Development Committee	15	11	3	1
Service Delivery Committee	15	11	3	1
Development Control Committee	13	10	2	1
Appeals Panel	17	13	3	1

- 3.7. The appointment of one Member from the Liberal Democrats is proposed to fill the single vacancies arising on each of the abovementioned Committees.

Background Documents:

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and 1991

The Constitution of the Council

Declaration of Result of Poll for Oadby Uplands By-Election held 21 September 2017

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Implications Allocation of Vacant Seats on Committees (Political Balance...)	
Finance	There are no financial implications.
Stephen Hinds (Director of Finance and Transformation / Section 151 Officer)	
Legal	Failure to review the proportionality arrangements and appoint to the Council's Committees accordingly will see the Council failing in its duties as set out in the the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
Dave Gill (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	
Corporate Risk(s) (CR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political Dynamics (CR3)
Anne Court (Interim Chief Executive)	As set out in the report. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory Governance (CR6) As set out in the report.
Corporate Priorities (CP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Anne Court (Interim Chief Executive)	
Vision & Values (V)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Anne Court (Interim Chief Executive)	
Equalities & Equality Assessment(s) (EA)	There are no equalities implications.
Anne Court (Interim Chief Executive)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (EA)