



Full Council	Thursday, 22 February 2018	Matter for Information and Decision
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Title: **Review of Political Balance, Proportionality and Reappointment of Seats to Council Bodies**

Author(s): **David Gill (Head of Law & Governance / Monitoring Officer)**

1. Introduction

To agree the changes to proportionality following the resignation of Councillor Miss A R Bond from the Conservative group and the subsequent constitution of a new political group, and to reappoint to offices and those seats affected on Committees, Boards, Panels, Forums and Working Groups (collectively hereafter as "Council bodies").

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. In accordance with the revised political balance of the Council, that the changes to its proportionality arrangements, as set out at **Appendices A** and **B**, be approved; and
- 2.2. In accordance with those proportionality arrangements, the necessary reappointments and amendments be made to those offices and the memberships of those affected Council bodies, and the Members to serve thereon, as set out at in **Appendix C**.

3. Information

- 3.1. Following the resignation of Councillor Miss Anne R Bond from the Conservative Group in January 2018, Notice under section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") was received by the Proper Officer (being the Chief Executive) on 7 February 2018 that Councillor Miss A R Bond and Councillor Dr Teck K Khong were to be henceforth treated as a political group for decision-making purposes on the Council to be known as 'The Oadby-Wigston Independent Group' ("OWIG").
- 3.2. In accordance with the section 15 Notice, Councillor Khong was appointed as Leader of the OWIG and Councillor Bond was appointed as Deputy Leader of the OWIG.
- 3.3. As a result of the above at paragraph 3.1, the political balance of the Council has shifted, as set out at **Appendix A**, which consequently has impacted upon the eligible representation of Members by political group on the various decision-making (and other bodies) of the Council, as set out at **Appendix B**. This shift in political balance exclusively affects the Conservative Group and the newly-constituted OWIG Group.
- 3.4. The requirements as to political proportionality in the membership of Council bodies are embodied in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ("the 1990 Regulations") made under sections 15, 16 and 17 of the 1989 Act.
- 3.5. 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 at least must be proportional to its overall composition. The Monitoring Officer has a statutory responsibility for ensuring the Council implements proportionality correctly.
- 3.6. In implementing proportionality correctly, due consideration must be given to the

following four principles as far as is reasonably 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 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 Council; and
 - iv.** subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each body are allocated to each political group in the same proportion as the group's representation on the Council.
- 3.7. Having received nominations from the concerned groups', the proposed reappointments and amendments to be made to the offices and memberships of those affected Council bodies, and the Members to serve thereon, are set out at **Appendix C**.
- 3.8. With particular reference to Appendix C, no nominations were received from the OWIG for their eligible seat allocations on both the Interview Panel and the Licensing and Regulatory Committee. It is therefore recommended that, under section 15 of the 1990 Regulations, those seats be treated as having been "vacated" by that group.

Background Documents:

Local Government and Housing Act 1989
Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990
Notice under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
The Constitution of the Council

E-mail: steven.tucker@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Tel: (0116) 257 2605
(0116) 257 2643

Implications Review of Political Balance, Proportionality and Reappointment of Seats (...)	
Finance	There is a total allocation of £2,500 per annum for Leaders of Opposition Political Groups as a Special Responsibility Allowance under the Members' Allowance Scheme 2017/18. This allocation would need to be prorated accordingly based on the total membership of political groups where applicable.
Stephen Hinds (Director of Finance & Transformation / Section 151 Officer)	
Legal	Failure to review the proportionality arrangements and appoint to the Council's bodies 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.
David Gill (Head of Law & Governance / Monitoring Officer)	
Corporate Risk(s) (CR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political Dynamics (CR3)
David Gill (Head of Law & Governance / Monitoring Officer)	As set out in the report and appendices. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory Governance (CR6) As set out in the report and appendices.
Corporate Priorities (CP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
David Gill (Head of Law & Governance / Monitoring Officer)	
Vision & Values (V)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
David Gill (Head of Law & Governance / Monitoring Officer)	
Equalities & Equality Assessment(s) (EA)	There are no equalities implications arising from this report.
David Gill (Head of Law & Governance / Monitoring Officer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (EA)