



Full Council (Extraordinary)	Tuesday, 07 February 2023	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Review of Membership of Council Bodies etc.
(February 2023)**

Report Author(s): **Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services
Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	Following a recent change to the political balance of the Council, it is obliged to review Member representation on the Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards, Panels, Forums and Working Groups of the Council ("Council Bodies") which it appoints to ensure that these reflect the make-up of the political groups on the Council as a whole.
Report Summary:	On 10 January 2023, Councillor Naveed Alam resigned from the Liberal Democrats and joined the Conservatives. This triggered a review of the Council's proportionality arrangements in relation to the eligible Member representation and allocation of seats on Council bodies. Reappointments to those affected Council Bodies by political group should now be made to reflect the Council's new political composition.
Recommendation(s):	<p>A. That the new political composition of the Council, and the proportionality arrangements in relation to minimum eligible Member representation and allocation of seats on Council bodies by political group (as set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to this report) be noted;</p> <p>B. That the nominated removals and appointments of Members from/to those affected Council bodies for the remainder of the municipal year 2022/23 (as set out at paragraph 2.2 of this report) be approved; and</p> <p>C. That a nominated appointment to serve as the Chair of the Children and Young Peoples' Forum and the Oadby Residents' Forum for the remainder of the municipal year 2022/23 (as set out at paragraph 3.3 of this report) be resolved (as may be necessary and agreed).</p>
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	David Gill (Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2643 samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Objectives:	Not applicable.
Vision and Values:	Not applicable.
Report Implications:-	

Legal:	Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review the representation of different political groups on bodies to which the Council makes appointments as soon as practicable after changes in membership of political groups occur. Failure to adhere to the relevant provisions of Local Government Act 1972, Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Local Government Act 2000, the Regulations made thereunder, and provisions of the Council's Constitution may result in the Council acting beyond its powers.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Political Dynamics (CR3) Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor J W Boyce (Liberal Democrat Group Leader) • Councillor Miss P V Joshi (Conservative Group Leader)
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimum Eligible Representation of Members by Political Group 2. Minimum Allocation of Seats to Political Groups (January 2023)

1. Political Composition of the Council

- 1.1 On 10 January 2023, the Monitoring Officer was informed by Councillor Naveed Alam that, with immediate effect, he resigned from the Liberal Democrat Party and joined the Conservative Party and wished to form part of the Conservative political group on the Council. As a result, the political composition of the Council changed from 23 Liberal Democrats and 3 Conservatives to 22 Liberal Democrats and 4 Conservatives.
- 1.2 Consequently, a review of the Council's proportionality arrangements in relation to minimum eligible Member representation and allocation of seats on Council Bodies, was triggered, resulting in the Liberal Democrat political group now being entitled to 84.62% of seats of Council Bodies and the Conservative political group being entitled to 15.38%.
- 1.3 A full break down of the revised political balance of the Council, and its proportionality arrangements in terms of minimum eligible Member representation and allocation of seats on Council bodies, is reflected in the figurework set out at **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**.

2. Removal and Appointment of Members to Council Bodies

2.1 The revised political balance of the Council affects on the following Council Bodies:

2.1.1. The Liberal Democrat political group **LOSE** one (1) seat on:

- Policy, Finance and Development Committee
- Development Control Committee
- Place Shaping Working Group

2.1.2. The Conservative political group **GAIN** one (1) seat on:

- Policy, Finance and Development Committee
- Development Control Committee
- Place Shaping Working Group

2.1.3. There is one (1) **VACANCY** for the Liberal Democrat political group on:

- Service Delivery Committee
- Children and Young Peoples' Forum

Note: These vacant seats are retained by the Liberal Democrats, and do not automatically transfer over with Councillor Alam to the Conservatives, otherwise there will be an over-representation of Conservative Members on Council Bodies.

2.2 At the time of publication of this report, the following nominations have been received, after consultation with each of Council's political party groups' leaders, for the removal and appointment of following Members from/to those affected Council Bodies accordingly.

Council Body	Remove	Appoint
Children and Young Peoples' Forum	Vacancy (Liberal Democrat)	Mrs S Z Haq (Liberal Democrat)
Development Control Committee	Mrs H E Loydall (Liberal Democrat)	Nomination Declined Vacancy (Conservative)
Place Shaping Working Group	Mrs L Kaufman (Liberal Democrat)	Nomination Declined Vacancy (Conservative)
Policy, Finance and Development Committee	N Alam (Liberal Democrat)	N Alam (Conservative)
Service Delivery Committee	Vacancy (Liberal Democrat)	J Kaufman (Liberal Democrat)

2.3. Where a political group has declined to nominate a Member, that seat will be allocated against that political group as 'vacant' to maintain proportional allocation. Where a seat is awaiting confirmation and/or a nomination, these can be tabled at the meeting itself.

3. Reappointment of Chairs to Council Bodies

3.1 At the Annual General Meeting of the Full Council on 10 May 2022, Councillor Alam was appointed the Chair of the following Council Bodies whilst, at the time, forming part Liberal Democrat political group:

- Children and Young Peoples' Forum
- Oadby Residents Forum

3.2 In light of the above, it is open to Council to resolve whether to retain Councillor Alam's current appointment(s) or to reappoint the Chair of the these Council Bodies.

3.3 If Council is so minded to re-appointment, at the time of publication of this report, the following nominations have been received, after consultation with each of Council's political party groups' leaders, to re-appoint the following Member(s) as Chairs.

Council Body (Chair)	Liberal Democrat	Conservative
Children and Young Peoples' Forum	R E R Morris	Nomination Declined
Oadby Resident's Forum	D M Carter	Nomination Declined

3.4. Where a nominated appointee(s) for Chair has been received from each respective political group, Council must resolve which nominee is to be appointed accordingly.