

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of Council on 7 December 2022

Proportionality and Appointments to Committees and Advisory Groups

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Classification	This report is Public
Report By	Jim Fieldsend Monitoring Officer 01246 242472 / jim.fieldsend@bolsover.gov.uk
Contact Officer	Amy Bryan Governance and Civic Manager 01246 242529 / amy.bryan@bolsover.gov.uk

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To make amendments to the appointment of Members to the Council's Committees and Advisory Groups for the 2022/23 Municipal Year following a by-election and a change to the Council's political groups affecting proportionality.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 Following a by-election on 17 November 2022 and a change in the numbers within one political group of the Authority following a Member who wished to realign themselves. This affects the overall proportionality of allocation of committee seats, and accordingly this should be revised at the earliest opportunity.
- 1.2 This report therefore brings forward the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules.
- 1.3 Committees are subject to the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Any Advisory Groups are not subject to the political balance requirements.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 **Appendix 1** to the report sets out the allocation of committee seats which best meets the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 2.2 **Appendix 2** sets out the current appointments/vacancies to committees as per the previous allocation. Political Groups are able to make changes where necessary to their appointments to Committees, and nominations to and removals from committees are requested in some instances.
- 2.3 The new proportionality calculation results in the Independent Group losing one seat on the Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee and the Labour Group gaining one seat. There is also a vacancy to fill on this Committee following the resignation from the Council of Councillor Stan Fox.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The report recommends that the allocation of Committee seats detailed in **Appendix 1** best meets the requirements of section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act as far as reasonable practicable.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Members may consider that they wish to remain status quo for the remainder of the municipal year for reasons such as maintaining the continuity of the work of the Committees. In that instance, Members would reject the report recommendations and agree to continue with the previously agreed allocation through to May 2023. This doesn't allow newly elected Councillors or those who have changed political groups to take up any seats on committees.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the proportionality of committee places as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed; and
2. That the appointment to committees as set out in Appendix 2 and as amended verbally at the meeting, be agreed.

Approved by Councillor Duncan McGregor, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

There are no finance or risk implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☒ No ☐

Details:

The Council is required to decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

Environmental implications are not applicable for this report.

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details:

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION								
<table border="1"><tr><th>Appendix No</th><th>Title</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Proportionality of the Council</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Current Appointments to Committees</td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>	Appendix No	Title	1	Proportionality of the Council	2	Current Appointments to Committees		
Appendix No	Title							
1	Proportionality of the Council							
2	Current Appointments to Committees							

Background Papers
<i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>
None