

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL – 23 SEPTEMBER, 2021

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 The Council is requested to note the outcome of the by-election to fill the vacancy in Ward 8 (Mid Formartine), note the change in political group affiliation of Councillor Blackett and consider any adjustments required to the composition of meeting groups.

2 Recommendations

The Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 note that at the by-election on 19 August, 2021, to fill the vacancy in Ward 8 (Mid Formartine), Councillor Sheila Powell was elected;
- 2.2 note the change in political group affiliation of Councillor Blackett;
- 2.3 note the changes to numbers following notification to the Chief Executive that Councillor Sheila Powell will form part of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Group and the change in political affiliation of Councillor Blackett:
- the Administration has 42 members (comprising Scottish Conservative and Unionist Group (20 – previously 19), Liberal Democrats (13) and Aligned Independents (9),
 - the Partnership has 19 members (comprising SNP (16 – previously 17), the Aberdeenshire Labour and Communities Alliance (2) and Independent (1)), and
 - the small groups and individuals have 9 members;
- 2.4 agree the exact composition of the four Policy Committees and the Audit Committee, having regard to the principle of each member being allocated one committee place; and
- 2.5 note that the political proportionality for the current standard 14 member, 8 member and 5 member committees and for sub-committees and working groups as approved by Full Council on 24 September, 2020 does not require amendment as a result of the notifications outlined at recommendation (2.2) above.

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 The Council at its meeting on 24 September, 2020 (Item 12) reviewed the allocation of places and the appointment of members to committees, sub-

committees, joint committees and working groups to reflect the political proportionality of the Council.

3.2 Following the election of Councillor Powell and the change in political affiliation of Councillor Blackett, the Administration has 42 members (comprising Scottish Conservative and Unionist Group (20 - previously 19), Liberal Democrats (13) and Aligned Independents (9)), the Partnership has 19 members (comprising SNP (16 – previously 17), the Aberdeenshire Labour and Communities Alliance (2) and Independent (1)) and the remaining members comprise - the Alba Group (3), Democratic Independent Green Group (2) and individuals (4).

3.3 The revised percentages are as follows -

Total Members		
Administration	42/70	60%
Partnership	19/70	27.14%
Amalgamated small groups and individuals	9/70	12.86%

3.4 These produce the following revised percentages for the standard 14 member model for Policy Committees and the Audit Committee and for standard 8 and 5 member models for Miscellaneous Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups.

Groups	14 member		8 member		5 member	
Administration	60% x 14 = 8.6	8	60% x 8 = 4.8	5	60% x 5 = 3	3
Partnership	27.14% x 14 = 3.8	4	27.14% x 8 = 2.17	2	27.14% x 5 = 1.36	1
Amalgamated small groups and individuals	12.86% x 14 = 1.8	2	12.86% x 8 = 1.03	1	12.86% x 5 = 0.64	1
Totals		14		8		5

4 Discussion

4.1 The overall balance of places on 14, 8 and 5 member committees does not require amendment. It is for the Council to decide which Committees are constituted in which way so as to reflect the political proportionality as well as honouring the Council's One Member, One Committee decision.

4.2 The current composition of the four Policy Committees and Audit Committee is as follows:-

	Business Services	Education and Children's	Infrastructure Services	Communities	Audit	Total
Administration	8	8	9	8	8	41
Partnership	4	3	4	4	4	19
Amalgamated small groups and individuals	2	2	1	2	2	9
Vacancy		1				1

- 4.3 In light of the by-election result, the current composition would require an additional place to be offered to the Administration. This could be achieved by allocating the vacant place on the Education and Children's Services Committee to Councillor Powell.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 The report helps deliver all six Strategic Priorities by ensuring the underlying key principle of "right people, right place, right time".
- 5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation is agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		x	
Staffing		x	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		x	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		x	
Climate Change and Sustainability		x	
Health and Wellbeing		x	
Town Centre First		x	

- 5.3 An integrated impact assessment is not required because the changes proposed are procedural matters and do not have a differential impact on any of the protected groups.

- 5.4 The following Risk has been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level

[Aberdeenshire Corporate Risks](#)

ACCORP004 – Business and Organisational Transformation

6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 Section A.2.1 of the List of Committee Powers at Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance requires any changes in committee structure and appointments to be determined by Full Council.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Ann Riddell, Principal Committee Services Officer
20 August, 2021