

# SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

South Lakeland House Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4UQ

[www.southlakeland.gov.uk](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk)



Thursday, 1 October 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

**Council - Tuesday, 6 October 2020**

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the above-mentioned meeting, the following report that was marked "to follow" on the Agenda:-

**7 Size of and Seats to be allocated to Political Groups on Committees**

To agree the size of and seats to be allocated to Political Groups on Committees following recent resignations from the Council.

**Page Nos.**

**3 - 8**

**Linda Fisher**

**Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer)**

***For all enquiries, please contact:-***

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## South Lakeland District Council

Council – 6 October 2020

### Size of and Seats to be allocated to Political Groups on Committees

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**Report from:** Linda Fisher Monitoring Officer

**Wards:** All

**Forward Plan:** Not applicable

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#### **1.0 Expected Outcome**

1.1 To agree the size of and seats to be allocated to Political Groups on Committees. To agree changes to the number of seats allocated to certain Committees and to agree that there are no changes to Chairs and Vice Chairman of Committees.

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that Council:-**

**(1) Agree the size of and seats to be allocated to the Political Groups on Committees as attached in the Appendix.**

**(2) To increase the number of seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 12 to 13 and to reduce the number of seats on the Audit Committee from 7 to 6.**

**(3) To delegate the required amendments to the Constitution to the Monitoring Officer.**

**(4) To agree that the Chair and Vice Chairman of Council and Committees remains unchanged.**

#### **3.0 Background and Proposals**

3.1 The Leader at the last meeting of Council requested that officer recalculate the political balance and the allocation of seats due to the resignations of 3 Councillors.

3.2 Under Sections 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 all principal councils if requested to must ensure that their committees and sub-committees reflect the make-up of the political Groups on the Council as a whole. This is calculated on the proportion of councillors and their groups to the number of councillors as a whole. Only Groups are the subject of the calculation and to be legally a group there must be 2 or more members.

3.3 In addition a Council must determine the allocation of seat on its committees. There are clear rules on committee proportionality which have been applied. The review has been carried out and the rules have been applied and meetings have taken place with the Party Leaders and Cllr Filmore has been consulted. The allocation attached has been agreed by the Party Leaders and Cllr Filmore.

#### **4.0 Consultation**

4.1 Meetings and discussions regarding the proposed allocation of seats and changes to Committees have taken place regarding the proposed changes consultation has taken place the Leaders of all Political Parties and Cllr Filmore. All have agreed the details contained within the attached Appendix. All Party Leaders have agreed to notify the Monitoring Officer of any required changes to committee membership arising from the changes.

#### **5.0 Alternative Options**

5.1 There are no alternative options, having requested a review of the size and allocation of seats Officers are required to report back to Council for approval to allocate the size and allocation of seats.

#### **6.0 Links to Council Priorities**

6.1 The Constitution and facilitating all members to take seats on Committees is a key part of the machinery of Local Government and this underpins the Council's decision making processes. This assist us in achieving the aims and objectives of the Councils priorities.

#### **7.0 Implications**

##### **Financial, Resources and Procurement**

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

##### **Human Resources**

7.2 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

##### **Legal**

7.3 The Legal requirements are explained elsewhere in this report.

##### **Health, Social, Economic and Environmental**

7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No

7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: There are no health, social, economic and environmental impacts relating to the proposed amendments.

##### **Equality and Diversity**

7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No

7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: There are no health, social, economic and environmental impacts relating to the proposed amendments

##### **Risk**

| Risk  | Consequence  | Controls required   |
|---|--|---|
| Bu not agreeing the allocation and size of seats the Council would not be in a position to carry out its decision making. | The Council would not be able to hold meetings and make decisions. | The allocation of the size and seats to be allocated to political groups on committees is required. |

Contact Officers [linda.fisher@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:linda.fisher@southlakeland.gov.uk)

### Tracking Information

| Signed off by       | Date sent     | Date Signed off |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Section 151 Officer | 25/09/2020    |                 |
| Monitoring Officer  | Report Author | 24/09/2020      |
| CMT                 | 25/09/2020    | 25/09/2020      |

| Circulated to                   | Date sent  |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Lead Specialist                 | N/A        |
| Human Resources Lead Specialist | N/A        |
| Communications Team             | N/A        |
| Leader                          | N/A        |
| Committee Chairman              | N/A        |
| Portfolio Holder                | N/A        |
| Ward Councillor(s)              | N/A        |
| Committee                       | N/A        |
| Executive (Cabinet)             | N/A        |
| Council                         | 06/10/2020 |

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**SIZE OF AND SEATS TO BE ALLOCATED TO POLITICAL GROUPS ON COMMITTEES  
as agreed by Group Leaders and Green Party Member**

**Political Group Makeup :-** Liberal Democrat (30) Conservative (14) Labour (3) Green Party Member (1)  
**Committees subject to political balance**

|                               | Liberal Democrat |               | Conservative |           | Labour      |              | Green Party Member |          |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|
|                               | A                | B             | A            | B         | A           | B            | A <sup>2</sup>     | B        |
| <b>Committees (64 places)</b> | <b>40.00</b>     | <b>40</b>     | <b>18.76</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>4.00</b> | <b>4</b>     |                    |          |
| Audit (6)                     | 3.750            | 4             | 1.750        | 2         | 0.375       | 0            | 0.125              | 0        |
| Human Resources (9)           | 5.625            | 5             | 2.625        | 3         | 0.563       | 1            | 0.187              | 0        |
| Licensing Regulatory (15)     | 9.375            | 10            | 4.375        | 4         | 0.938       | 1            | 0.312              | 0        |
| Overview and Scrutiny (13)    | 8.125            | 8             | 3.792        | 4         | 0.813       | 1            | 0.270              | 0        |
| Planning (14)                 | 8.750            | 8             | 4.083        | 4         | 0.875       | 1            | 0.291              | 1        |
| Standards (7)                 | 4.375            | 4             | 2.042        | 2         | 0.438       | 1            | 0.145              | 0        |
| <b>Total</b>                  |                  | <b>40(-1)</b> |              | <b>19</b> |             | <b>4(+1)</b> |                    | <b>1</b> |

**Committees not subject to political balance<sup>1</sup>**

|  | Liberal Democrat |           | Conservative |          | Labour |          | Green |          |
|--|------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|--------|----------|-------|----------|
|  | A                | B         | A            | B        | A      | B        | A     | B        |
| <b>Committees (31 places)</b>                          |                  |           |              |          |        |          |       |          |
| Lake Administration (24 – 16 District Council members) | 10.000           | 10        | 4.667        | 5        | 1.00   | 1        | 0.333 | 0        |
| Licensing (15)   | 9.375            | 10        | 4.375        | 4        | 0.938  | 1        | 0.312 | 0        |
| <b>Total</b>   |                  | <b>20</b> |              | <b>9</b> |        | <b>2</b> |       | <b>0</b> |

**A=** Exact proportion of seats for each political group. **B=** Number of seats for each group proposed.

<sup>1</sup> Lake Administration Committee and Licensing Committee are not subject to political balance rules. However, the Council, by custom and practice, appoint members in accordance with the political balance of the Council.

While

<sup>2</sup> Please note that while the figures have been inserted for the political proportionality for the Green Party the allocation of seats calculation is carried out for Political Parties ( Groups of 2 or more members)

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