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REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan reference	Not in Council Plan
Wards affected	All wards

Executive summary

At the by-election on 21 September 2023 for the Newport Pagnell South Ward, Councillor Oyakhire was elected, as subsequently forms forming part of the Liberal Democrat Group. As this reflects a change in the political balance of the Council, is a change in the number of Members in each Political Group on the Council, a review of the allocation of committee seats to Political Groups and those seats on Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority.

The Conservative Group holds 14 (24.56%) of the seats on the Council, the Labour Group 27 (47.37%) of the seats, and the Liberal Democrat Group 16 (28.07%) of the seats.

For 2023/24 there are 126 seats available on politically balanced committees overall and these are allocated as follows:

- 31 (24.60%) to the Conservative Group;
- 60 (47.62%) to the Labour Group; and
- 35 (27.78%) to the Liberal Democrat Group.

1. Decision/s to be made

1.1 That Council note the revised political makeup of Milton Keynes City Council and agree:

- a) revised allocations to Committees, and Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority (as set out in **Annex A**); and
- b) revised appointments to Committees, and Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority (as set out in **Annex B**) (to follow).

2. Why is the decision needed?

- 2.1 Further to receipt by the Proper Officer of the changes of Group composition, the Council is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, to review the basis of allocation of seats amongst the Political Groups.
- 2.2 In making its review, the Council is required, so far as reasonably practicable, to comply with the following principles:
- a) Not all seats on each Committee are to be allocated to the same Group.
 - b) The majority of seats is to be allocated to a particular Group if the number of persons belonging to that Group is a majority on the Council.
 - c) Subject to the above paragraphs, the number of seats on the Committees allocated to each Group should bear the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the Committees as that borne by the number of Members of that Group to the Membership of the Council.
 - d) Subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to different political groups bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.

Committee Seats

- 2.3 There are a total of 126 seats across the Committees of the Council and the proportional entitlement is therefore revised as follows:
- Conservative Group – 31 (-2)
 - Labour Group – 60 (unchanged)
 - Liberal Democrat Group – 35 (+2)

Sub-Committees

- 2.4 There are constitutional provisions / requirements for sub committees to meet in certain circumstances, the most common being Planning or Licensing, but also on occasion to hear call-in at scrutiny committees. The revised political balance on a sub-committees will now be as follows:
- 3-member sub-committee (1 Con, 1 Lab, 1 Lib Dem)
 - 5-member sub-committee (1 Con, 2 Lab, 2 Lib Dem)

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

- 2.4 The Council is currently entitled to five seats on the fire authority and the proportional entitlement is therefore revised as follows:
- Conservative Group – 1 (unchanged)
 - Labour Group – 2 (-1)
 - Liberal Democrat Group – 2 (+1)
- 2.5 The Council is requested to note the report and to agree the revised Committee allocations set out in (Annex A).

3. Timetable for implementation

- 3.1 Once agreed by Council, revised appointments and allocations will be effective immediately.

Annex A - Revised Committee, and Fire Authority Allocations

Annex B - Revised Committee, and Fire Authority Appointments (to follow)