



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 28 OCTOBER 2020

SUBJECT: POLITICAL BALANCE – APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To invite the Council to consider the political balance allocations for Committees.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section II (11) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to appointments to Committees

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Council consider the political balance allocations for Committees.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 12 February 2020 the Council agreed the political balance of allocations to Committees (para 13 of the Minute refers).
- 3.2 Following the resignation by Councillor Taylor from the SNP Group there is a need for the Council to consider the current political balance allocations to Committees.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**
None
- (b) **Policy and Legal**
There is no legislation in Scotland governing how Local authority committees should be constituted.

The local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities in England to give proportionate representation to political groups. A political group is defined there as 2 or more councillors who wish to form a group and who have appointed a leader. This legislation has never been introduced in Scotland. COSLA issued a letter to all newly formed unitary authorities in 1993 highlighting the importance of “party representation” on committees. The Scottish Government have mentioned the introduction of legislation similar to that in England if local authorities do not stick to the spirit of the COSLA letter.

Moray Council has traditionally treated non-aligned councillors collectively as a group but this does not appear to be a requirement of the COSLA letter. Practice varies across Scotland as to how “party representation” is applied to particular circumstances.

(c) Financial Implications

Payment of allowances to Members is governed by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2016 and the Local Government (Allowances and Expenses) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 with maximum rates of payment of remuneration and allowances and expenses being specified by Scottish Ministers.

(d) Risk Implications

Impact on strategic management of the business of the Council.

(e) Staffing Implications

None

(f) Property

None

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

None

(h) Consultations

None

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Council consider Committee representation.

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Background Papers:

Ref: SPMAN-2045703626-24