

## NUMBER OF COMMITTEE PLACES - STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

<b>Head of Service:</b>	Piero Ionta, Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer
<b>Report Author</b>	Tim Richardson
<b>Wards affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</b>	No
<b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b>	N/A
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	None

### Summary

Further to a request received in accordance with CPR 3.4, this Committee is invited to consider the request from the Liberal Democrat Political Group to increase the Strategy & Resources Committee from a membership of 8 places to a membership of 10 places.

### Recommendation (s)

**The Committee is asked to:**

- (1) Consider the request to increase the Strategy & Resources Committee from a membership of 8 places to 10 places and agree what action, if any, to recommend to Full Council.**

### 1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 CPR 3.4 of Appendix 5 of the Constitution provides that any councillor may request that a particular item of business be included on the agenda of a meeting of a committee if written notice is given to the Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer by the required deadline. CPR 3.5 sets out that an item shall not be submitted if, in the opinion of the Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer it does not comply with legal or policy requirements.
- 1.2 This report invites the Committee to consider a matter which has been submitted to the Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer in accordance with both CPR 3.4 and CPR 3.5.

# Standards and Constitution Committee

16 April 2025

## 2 Background - Allocation of committee places

- 2.1 Responsibility for the composition and appointment of members to committees is contained within the Terms of Reference of the Full Council (Appendix 3 of the Constitution). This function is undertaken at the Annual Meeting of the Full Council held each May, and as is required at other times.
- 2.2 Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires the allocation of seats on committees, advisory panels and certain other bodies to reflect the political make-up of the Council. To facilitate this a proportionality calculation is produced which enables the allocation of committee places in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
- 2.3 For the purposes of Regulations made under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Members of the Council have currently formed themselves into Political Groups as follows: Residents Association (25 seats), Liberal Democrats (3 Seats), Labour (3 seats), Conservative (2 seats) and Independents (2 seats).
- 2.4 If the Council approves the proposal to increase the number of places on the Strategy & Resources Committee to 10, and the number of Members in political groups remains as detailed in paragraph 4.3 above, it is anticipated that that the allocation of seats on the committee would change as follows:
- +1 place on the Strategy & Resources Committee for the Residents' Associations Group
- and
- +1 place on the Strategy & Resources Committee for either the Conservative Group or the Independents Group
- 2.5 This follows the same allocation of places as Licensing & Planning Policy Committee and Planning Committee, both of which have 10 members.
- 2.6 A comparison with the current arrangements for the committee is as follows:

Size of Strategy & Resources Committee	Residents Association Group	Liberal Democrats Group	Labour	Conservative	Independents
8 places (current)	6	1	1	0	0
10 places (proposed)	7	1	1	1 place for either Conservative or Independents Group	

# Standards and Constitution Committee

## 16 April 2025

- 2.7 If it were proposed to increase the size of Strategy & Resources Committee so as to entitle each Opposition Group to have at least one seat on it, in order for this to be compliant with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and its statutory requirements when applying the principle of proportionality to the allocation of places, the size of Strategy & Resources Committee would need to increase to 13 – whereupon 9 places would be allocated to the RA Group and 1 seat to each of the four opposition groups.
- 2.8 An increase in the number of places on the Strategy & Resources Committee (be it 8 to 10, or 8 to 13) may instigate changes to the allocation of places on other committees due to its impact on proportionality calculations.

### 3 Background – Committee sizes

- 3.1 The number of places on the Council's committees and advisory panels is currently as follows:

<b>Licensing and Planning Policy</b>	<b>10 members*</b> ( <i>*statutory requirement of 10-15 members</i> )
<b>Planning Committee</b>	<b>10 members</b>
<b>Audit &amp; Scrutiny</b>	<b>8 Members</b>
<b>Community &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<b>8 Members</b>
<b>Environment</b>	<b>8 Members</b>
<b>Strategy &amp; Resources</b>	<b>8 Members</b>
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	<b>5 Members*</b> ( <i>*proposed to increase to 6 for the 2025/26 municipal year</i> )
<b>Standards and Constitution</b>	<b>6 Members</b>
<b>Financial Strategy Advisory</b>	<b>6 Members</b>
<b>Health Liaison</b>	<b>6 Members</b>
<b>HR Panel</b>	<b>6 Members</b>

# Standards and Constitution Committee

## 16 April 2025

- 3.2 It is proposed to increase the number of places on the Crime & Disorder Committee from 5 to 6 from the 2025/26 municipal year. This will bring the number of places on the committee in line with the Council's other committees and will facilitate the requirements of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 for political proportionality following recent changes to the political groups on the Council.

### 4 Proposal

- 4.1 The Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer has received a request from Councillor James Lawrence on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group for the inclusion of the following proposal as an item on the agenda for the meeting of the Standards & Constitution Committee on 16 April 2025:

#### **Proposal**

**To increase Strategy and Resources Committee from a membership of 8 places to 10.**

**All other committee sizes would be to remain the same as the current civic year.**

- 4.2 In light of the information provided above, this Committee is invited to consider this proposal and decide what further action, if any, to take.

### 5 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 5.1 Equality Impact Assessment

5.1.1 None.

- 5.2 Crime & Disorder

5.2.1 None.

- 5.3 Safeguarding

5.3.1 None.

- 5.4 Dependencies

5.4.1 None.

- 5.5 Other

5.5.1 Allocation of seats on the Council's ordinary committees must be undertaken in a politically proportionate manner in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government Committee and Political Group Regulations 1990 (as amended).

# Standards and Constitution Committee

## 16 April 2025

### 6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial or manpower implications in relation to the matters contained within this report.
- 6.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** There are no financial or manpower implications in relation to the matters contained within this report.

### 7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The Council is required to allocate places on committees and other bodies in accordance with statutory provisions set out in the body of this report.
- 7.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** Reference to the relevant legislative provisions are noted within the body of this report.

### 8 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 8.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
- Not relevant to this matter.
- 8.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 8.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None.
- 8.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None.
- 8.5 **Partnerships:** None.

### 9 Background papers

- 9.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

**Previous reports:**

- [Appendix 3 of the Constitution](#)
- [Appendix 5 of the Constitution](#)

**Other papers:**

- None