

City Council – 27 January 2025

Report of the Lord Mayor

Corporate Director/ Director:

Beth Brown, Director of Legal and Governance

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Title: Appointments to Committees and Joint Committees

Does the report form part of the Budget or Policy Framework?

Yes No

Commissioner Consideration –

Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office? Yes No

Any comments the Commissioners wish to provide are listed below.

Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?

No

Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:

Green, Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living Well in our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Summary

1.1 In May 2024 Council established a number of committees and joint bodies for the municipal year 2024/25, including approval of their membership and named substitutes. In accordance with legislative requirements, following a change to the composition of political groups represented on the Council, a recalculation of political balance and the implications of this for the allocation of seats on committees has been undertaken.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the relative strength of political groups on the Council is now as follows:

Labour Group 89.09% (49)

Nottingham Independents and Independent Group 7.27% (4)

There are two councillors who are not a member of a political group.

- 2.2 To note the allocation of seats on Council committees and joint committees to political groups as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 To note that, in accordance with the allocation of seats to political groups as set out in Appendix 1, Councillor Salma Mumtaz is no longer a member of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority; and to appoint Councillor Andrew Rule as a member of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority.

3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 The recommendations support compliance with legislative requirements for the allocation of seats on Council committees, as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1980. Following notification of change in membership of a political group since the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2024, a recalculation of political balance and a review of the implications of this for the allocation of seats on Council committees to which political proportionality rules apply has been carried out.

4. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 4.1 None - the recommendations support compliance with legislative requirements.

5. Consideration of Risk

- 5.1 The recommendations support compliance with legislative requirements.

6. Best Value Considerations

- 6.1 Not applicable – the recommendations support compliance with legislative requirements.

7. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 7.1 Council has established a number of committees to discharge some of its non-executive functions. Details of these committees and the functions delegated to each committee can be found in Article 9 Non-Executive Functions and Committees of the Constitution. Council has also delegated some functions to joint committees and details of the functions delegated to these joint committees can also be found in Article 9.
- 7.2 Council is responsible for appointing the membership of the committees that it has established. Seats on Council committees must be allocated in compliance with legislation which requires that, for most committees, the allocation of seats to political groups reflects the relative strength of those groups on the Council, as far as is reasonably practicable. The allocation of seats on some committees, for example Licensing Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board, is governed by other legislation and political balance is not required.
- 7.3 The main legislation which governs whether political balance is required in the allocation of committee seats and how it is calculated is the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This set out four principles that must be observed:

- i) Where some or all of the members of the Council have formed into two or more political groups, then no committee can have members from just one political group.
- ii) Where a majority of members of the Council are members of one political group, that political group must have a majority of seats on each committee.
- iii) As long as there is consistency with the first two principles, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all of the Ordinary Committees taken together, must be as near as possible proportionate to their strength on the Council.
- iv) As long as there is consistency with the first three principles, the number of seats allocated to each political group on each individual committee must be proportionate to their strength on the Council.

7.4 A political group is a group of two or more councillors who have notified the Proper Officer that they wish to form a group. Where there are councillors who do not belong to a political group, Council will appoint any unallocated/ left over seats from amongst the councillors who belong to no political group.

7.5 Alternative arrangements for the allocated of seats can only be approved by a unanimous vote of Council.

7.6 Appointments to the seats allocated to political groups on each Council committee for the forthcoming municipal year are made at the Council's Annual Meeting. The Constitution then enables the Director of Legal and Governance to approve in-year changes to committee memberships, either at the request of the relevant political group or because a member ceases to be eligible for membership. Such changes are reported to the next meeting of Council.

7.7 In May 2024 Council appointed councillors to seats on Council committees for the municipal year 2024/25, based on the political balance at that time. The resignation of Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos from the Labour Group in November 2024 changed the composition of political groups and required a recalculation of political balance and a review of the implications of this for the allocation of seats on committees to which political proportionality rules apply.

7.8 Following a change to the membership of political groups, the relative strength of political groups on the Council is now as follows:

Labour Group 89.09% (49)

Nottingham Independents and Independent Group 7.27% (4)

There are two councillors who are not a member of a political group.

7.9 The allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the principles of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for each of the committees to which this applies is set out at Appendix 1. The impact of this on the appointments made by Council in May 2024 is that the Labour Group has one less seat on the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority, and the Nottingham Independents and Independent Group gain one seat on that Authority. There are no unallocated/ leftover seats for councillors not a member of a political group to be appointed to. As nominated by the relevant political groups, Council is asked to note that Councillor Salma Mumtaz will no longer be a member of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority; and approve

Councillor Andrew Rule as a member of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority.

8. Commissioner comments

8.1 Commissioners have approved the report

9. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money)

9.1 The nature of this decision has no financial implication and is supported.

Sam Taylor
Interim Principal Management Accountant
3 January 2025

10. Legal colleague comments

10.1 The legal requirements for establishing political balance on relevant committees is as set out in the main body of the report.

Ann Barrett – Team Leader, Legal Services
2 January 2025

11. Other relevant comments

11.1 None

12. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

12.1 Not applicable

13. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

13.1 Not applicable

14. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

14.1 Not applicable

15. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

15.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because the proposals do not relate to a new or changing policy, service or function.

16. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

16.1 Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A DPIA is not required because the proposals do not involve use of personal or sensitive data.

17. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

17.1 Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A CIA is not required because the proposals do not have any significant carbon impact.

18. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

18.1 None

19. Published documents referred to in this report

19.1 Article 9 Non-Executive Functions and Committees of the Council's Constitution

19.2 Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 20 May 2024

19.3 Local Government and Housing Act 1989

19.4 Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990

Councillor Carole McCulloch
Lord Mayor

Allocation of Seats on Council Committees and Joint Committees to Political Groups

	Labour Group	Nottingham Independents and Independent Group
Ordinary Committees		
Appeals Committee	4	1
Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee	7	1
Audit Committee	8	1
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee	4	1
Planning Committee	15	1
Regulatory and Appeals Committee	13	1
Standards and Governance Committee	7	1
Trusts and Charities Committee	7	1
Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	7	1
Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee	7	1
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	7	1
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	7	1
Housing and City Development Scrutiny Committee	7	1
Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee	5	0
Joint Committee on Mineral and Waste Planning	4	0
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel	2	0
Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority	5	1