

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to: Clackmannanshire Council

Date of Meeting: 13 October, 2016

Subject: Political Balance & Committee Membership

Report by: Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) advise Council of a change in the political balance of the Council and of the implications of that change for the Council's political decision-making framework;
- b) advise Council of a resignation from the Audit & Finance Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- a) notes that Councillor Archie Drummond has intimated to the Chief Executive that he is no longer an Independent councillor and that he has joined the SNP political group;
- b) notes the impact of that on the Council's political balance generally and specifically the implications in respect of the membership of certain Council committees;
- c) agrees to the changes in the membership balance of the Audit & Finance Committee, the Planning Committee and the Regulatory Committee as set out in this report;
- d) notes that Councillor Janet Cadenhead has intimated to the Chief Executive her resignation as Chair of the Audit & Finance Committee and as a member of that Committee;
- e) appoints a member of the SNP group to each of the: Audit and Finance, Planning and Regulatory committees to take the place of a member of the Labour group;
- f) appoints a new Chair of the Audit & Finance Committee; and

- g) appoints to any consequential vacancies which may arise as a result of any of the foregoing recommendations.

3.0 Background & Considerations

3.1 The Council agreed its approach to political balance in May of 2012 in advance of the Council taking decisions on which party should hold the political administration.

3.2 The general principles which underpin the guidance on political balance are that (insofar as is practicable):

- a) not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
- b) the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of people belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership; and
- c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the body allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

3.3 Councillor Archie Drummond has notified me that he has joined the SNP political group. This means that the overall political balance on the Council shifts as follows:

FROM

Labour – 8 (44%)
SNP – 8 (44%)
Conservative – 1 (6%)
Independent – 1 (6%)

TO

Labour – 8 (44%)
SNP – 9 (50%)
Conservative – 1 (6%)

The percentage figures in brackets represent the proportion of all members each political group represents.

3.4 Applying this changed political balance to the Council's decision-making framework suggests the following consequential changes to the membership of Council committees:

- Audit & Finance Committee - change from 4 Administration and 3 Opposition to 3 Administration and 4 Opposition; single member from outwith the main opposition and the Administration unchanged
- Planning - change from 5 Administration and 4 Opposition to 4 Administration and 5 Opposition; single member from outwith the two main parties unchanged

- Regulatory – change from 4 Administration and 3 Opposition to 3 Administration and 4 Opposition; single member from outwith the two main parties unchanged

3.5 Council is also advised that Councillor Janet Cadenhead has intimated to me that she has resigned both as Chair of the Audit & Finance Committee and as a member of that Committee. Council is, therefore, invited to appoint a new chair of that Committee.

4.0 Sustainability Implications - N/A

5.0 Resource Implications – N/A

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities**

The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 N/A

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices - None

11.0 Background Papers –

Report to Council of 17 May, 2012 – Political Balance
 Report to Council of 1 June, 2012 – The Council’s Political Decision-Making Framework
 Report to Council of 2 June, 2016 – The Council’s Political Decision-Making Framework
 Email to Chief Executive from Councillor Cadenhead, October, 2016

Author(s):

NAME	DESIGNATION	
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