

Council report



9 March 2022

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROPORTIONALITY

Report sponsor	Sharon Bridglalsingh Director of Law and Governance
Report author	Peter Brown Head of Democratic Services Peter.Brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk 01908 253671

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No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

Executive summary

Former Councillor A Geary resigned from Milton Keynes Council, on Monday 14 February 2022. The Council therefore needs to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups and will also need to appoint a replacement to former Councillor Geary on some Committees from the Conservative Group.

The Conservative Group holds 40.3509% of the seats on the Council, the Labour Group 33.333% of the seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 22.8070% of the seats. One Independent Councillor holds 1.7544% and 1.7544% of the seats are vacant.

1. Decision/s to be made

1.1 That Council note the revised political makeup of the Council and agree the revised Committee allocations and appointments set out in Annex A (to follow).

2. Why is the decision needed?

2.1 Further to receipt by the Proper Officer of the resignation of former Councillor A Geary from Milton Keynes Council, 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 normal circumstances a review of proportionality would be undertaken after a by-election, but because of the 'six-month rule' which prevents the holding of a by-election when a resigning Councillor was due to retire within six months of their resignation, the vacant seat will not be elected to until Thursday 5 May 2022. This meeting is therefore the most appropriate and timely opportunity to undertake a review.
- 2.3 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. 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.
- 2.4 There is now a single Casual Vacancy on the Council because of the resignation of former Councillor A Geary. However, regulations set out that representation on Committees should be proportional to the makeup of the Council, which means that Casual Vacancies should be reflected as vacant Committee seats.
- 2.5 There are a total of 141 seats across the Committees of the Council and the proportional entitlement is therefore revised as follows:
- Conservative Group – 57 (-2)
 - Labour Group – 47 (unchanged)
 - Liberal Democrat Group – 32 (unchanged)
 - Independent – 3 (unchanged)
 - Casual Vacancies – 2 (+2)
- 2.6 The Council is requested to note the report and to agree the revised Committee allocations set out in (Annex A) (to follow).

3. Timetable for implementation

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

Annexes - Revised Committee Allocations and Appointments (March 2022) (to follow)