

Council report



23 February 2021

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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No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 Akter resigned from Milton Keynes Council, on Friday 5 February 2021. The Council therefore needs to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups and will also need to appoint a replacement to former Councillor Akter on some Committees from the Labour Group.

The Conservative Group holds 29.8246% of the seats on the Council, the Labour Group 38.4965% of the seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 26.3158% of the seats. One Independent Councillor holds 1.7544% and 3.5088% 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.

2. Why is the decision needed?

- 2.1 Further to receipt by the Proper Officer of the resignation of former Councillor Akter 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 ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, by-elections to fill Casual Vacancies cannot be held until Thursday 6 May 2021. 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 are now two Casual Vacancies on the Council because of the resignation of former Councillor Small in March 2020. However, regulations set out that representation on Committees should be proportional to the makeup of the Council, which means that the number of Casual Vacancies should be reflected as vacant Committee seats.
- 2.5 There are a total of 149 seats across the Committees of the Council and the proportional entitlement is therefore revised as follows:
- Conservative Group – 44 (unchanged)
 - Labour Group – 58 (-2)
 - Liberal Democrat Group – 39 (unchanged)
 - Independent – 3 (unchanged)
 - Casual Vacancies – 5 (+2)
- 2.6 Leaders of Political Groups have agreed the revised allocations and appointments which are set out at Annex A.

3. Timetable for implementation

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

List of annexes

Annex A – Revised Committee Allocations and Appointments (February 2021)