

# CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

**Report to:- THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date of Meeting:- 20 May 2013**

**Agenda Item No:-**

**5.(i)**

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**Public**

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**Title:- APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS -  
2013/2014**

**Report of:- DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE**

**Report reference:- GD.21/13**

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## **Summary:-**

The Report informs Members of the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels for the Municipal Year 2013/14 and the nominations of the political groups to those seats. The allocations remain unaltered from last year due to the fact that none of the City Council seats were subject to an election in May 2013.

## **Recommendation:-**

That the report of the Director of Governance – Appointment of Committees and Panels 2013/14 – be received and approved, and that the allocation of seats on and the appointment of Members to the various Committees and Panels of the Council as set out in the Report and Schedules attached be approved.

**Contact Officer:** Mark Lambert

**Ext:** 7019

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS 2012/2013

### SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. It is necessary for the Council at the Annual Meeting to review the allocation of the seats on Council Committees and Panels so that they reflect pro-rata the strengths of the political groups on the Council and comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. As there were no City Council elections in May this year there has, therefore, been no change in the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats to the groups is the same as the position following the Council Bye Elections in Municipal Year 2012/13.
2. I have therefore calculated the seats to be allocated to the political Groups and have informed them accordingly. The method of allocation is set out in Appendix 1. Schedules showing the Groups' nominations for appointments to Committees/Panels for the Municipal year 2013/2014 in respect of the seats allocated to them will be circulated shortly.
3. The Committees and Panels will be appointed by the full Council at the Annual Meeting. Council will appoint the Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels and the Licensing Committee pursuant to Minute C.104/09.
4. It is RECOMMENDED that the Report of the Director of Governance – Appointment of Committees and Panels 2013/2014 (GD21.13) – be received and approved, and that the allocation of seats on and the appointment of Members to the various Committees and Panels as set out in the Report and Schedules attached be approved.

## Appendix 1

### 1. METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS

1.1 The rules governing the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels to Political Groups are set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulations made thereunder. The Executive is exempt from the application of those rules and does not have to be politically balanced. The Licensing Committee is also exempt from the rules on political balance, although the Department of Culture, Media & Sport do recommend that it should be balanced as far as possible and the Council therefore decided (Minute C.246/04(b)) that it should be comprised of the same members as form the Regulatory Panel. The political balance rules strictly therefore only apply to the Committees and Panels shown in the Appendix attached.

The rules governing the allocation are relatively complex and are:

- (i) That not all the seats are allocated to the same Political Group.
- (ii) That the majority of the seats on each Committee go to the Political Group with the majority on the full Council.
- (iii) Subject to the above two principles, that the total number of the Committee seats allocated to each Group bears the same proportion to the proportion of the Group on the full Council.
- (iv) Subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each Committee allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion of the Group on the full Council.

It is important to note in understanding the allocations shown in the Appendix that the above principles must be applied in the sequential order set out above. For example, the principle in paragraph (iii) above of ensuring that the Groups are allocated their total aggregate entitlement must be complied with before the number of seats on each Committee is balanced in accordance with principle (iv).

1.2 The duty is to apply the above principles so far as reasonably practicable. This is met by rounding down fractional entitlements of less than a half and rounding up entitlements of a half or more. If there are competing fractions then the higher fraction will “win”. If this leads to a bigger entitlement than there are seats available

on a Committee then fractions have to be rounded down to make entitlements fit available seats.

## 2. CALCULATION OF THE GROUPS' ENTITLEMENT ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS

- 2.1 There are in total 77 seats to be allocated by the Council on the Regulatory Panel, the Development Control Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Employment Panel, the Audit Committee, the Standards Committee and the Appeals Panels. The Conservative Group has 20 Members, Labour 28, the Liberal Democrats 2 and the Independent Group have 2 Members. As can be seen from the calculations in the Appendix attached, when working out the total aggregate allocation to each Political Group relative to their strengths on the Council, the Conservatives should receive 30 seats, Labour 41 seats, the Liberal Democrats and Independent Group get 3 seats each.
- 2.2 When the seats are allocated on each Committee on a straight allocation following the rounding up/rounding down principles set out above, none of the political Group numbers need any further adjustment to bring each group to its aggregate entitlement.
- 2.3 The calculations have been undertaken on the basis of the current membership of the Council, i.e. 52 Members.

## APPENDIX 1

### CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS

1. The political balance on the full Council is:-

20 Conservatives; 28 Labour; 2 Liberal Democrats and 2 Independent Members

2. There are 77 seats in total on those Committees and Panels which are subject to the proportionality rules giving aggregate entitlements to the groups as follows:

Conservative	$\frac{20}{52} \times 77 = 29.62$	30 rounded up
Labour	$\frac{28}{52} \times 77 = 41.46$	41 rounded down
Liberal Democrat	$\frac{2}{52} \times 77 = 2.96$	3 rounded up
Independent	$\frac{2}{52} \times 77 = 2.96$	3 rounded up

## ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS

	CONSERVATIVES	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	INDEPENDENT
Regulatory Panel (12)	(4.62) 5	(6.46) 6	(0.46) 1	(0.46) 0
Development Control (12)	(4.62) 5	(6.46) 6	(0.46) 0	(0.46) 1
Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel (8)	(3.08) 3	(4.31) 4	(0.31) 1	(0.31) 0
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel (8)	(3.08) 3	(4.31) 4	(0.31) 0	(0.31) 1
Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel (8)	(3.08) 3	(4.31) 4	(0.31) 0	(0.31) 1
Employment Panel (6)	(2.31) 2	(3.23) 4	(0.23) 0	(0.23) 0
Audit Committee (7)	(2.69) 3	(3.77) 4	(0.27) 0	(0.27) 0
Standards Committee (7)	(2.69) 3	(3.77) 4	(0.27) 0	(0.27) 0
Appeals Panel 1 (3)	(1.15) 1	(1.62) 2	(0.12) 0	(0.12) 0
Appeals Panel 2 (3)	(1.15) 1	(1.62) 2	(0.12) 0	(0.12) 0
Appeals Panel 3 (3)	(1.15) 1	(1.62) 1	(0.12) 1	(0.12) 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>30</u></b>	<b><u>41</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>
(77 seats in all)				

**COMMITTEES AND PANELS (TO BE APPOINTED BY COUNCIL)**