

# CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

**Report to:-** THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF  
THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Date of Meeting:-** 23 MAY 2011

**Agenda Item No:-**

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**Public**

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**Title:-** APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS -  
2011/2012

**Report of:-** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (GOVERNANCE)

**Report reference:-** GD.36/11

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## **Summary:-**

The Report informs Members of the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels for the Municipal Year 2011/12 and the nominations of the political groups to those seats. The allocations have changed from the 2010/11 Municipal Year to reflect the results of the recent local elections.

## **Recommendation:-**

That the report of the Assistant Director (Governance) – Appointment of Committees and Panels 2011/12 – 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.

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## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS 2011/2012

### SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. It is necessary for the Council, at its 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. Due to the City Council elections in May this year there has been a change in the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats to the groups is, therefore, different to the Municipal Year 2010/11.
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 2011/2012 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 Assistant Director (Governance) – Appointment of Committees and Panels 2011/2012 – 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. Similarly, the Standards Committee is not to be regarded as a body to which the rules apply and the Council can allocate the seats on that Committee as it thinks fit, subject to the legislative requirements relating to independent Members and Parish Council representation on the Committee. The Council has, however, expressed the wish that local authority membership on the Standards Committee should be allocated on the basis of political proportionality and this has been done. The Licensing Committee is also exempt from the rules on political balance, although DCMS 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.
- 1.3 Any seats remaining after the political groups have been allocated their shares have, under the regulations, to be given to any independent members.

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

- 2.1 There are in total 70 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 and the Appeals Panels. The Conservative Group has 22 Members, Labour 24, the Liberal Democrats 4 and there are 2 Independent Members who have this year formed an Independent political group (“The Independent Group”). 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 32 seats, the Liberal Democrats 5 seats and The Independent Group 3 seats.
- 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.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS**

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

22 Conservatives; 24 Labour; 4 Liberal Democrats and 2 The Independent Group.

2. There are 70 seats in total on those Committees and Panels which are subject to the proportionality rules giving aggregate entitlements to the groups as follows :

Conservative	$\frac{22}{52} \times 70 = 29.61$	30 rounded up
Labour	$\frac{24}{52} \times 70 = 32.31$	32 rounded down
Liberal Democrat	$\frac{4}{52} \times 70 = 5.38$	5 rounded down
The Independent Group	$\frac{2}{52} \text{ seats} \times 70 = 2.69$	3 rounded up

## ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS

	CONSERVATIVES	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	INDEPENDENT
Regulatory Panel (12)	(5.08) 5	(5.54) 6	(0.92) 1	(0.46)
Development Control (12)	(5.08) 5	(5.54) 6	(0.92) 1	(0.46)
Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel (8)	(3.39) 3	(3.69) 4	(0.62) 1	(0.03) 1
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel (8)	(3.39) 3	(3.69) 4	(0.62) 1	(0.31)
Environment and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Panel (8)	(3.39) 3	(3.69) 4	(0.62) 1	(0.31)
Employment Panel (6)	(2.54) 3	(2.77) 3	(0.46)	(0.23)
Audit Committee (7)	(2.96) 3	(3.23) 3	(0.54)	(0.27) 1
Appeals Panel 1 (3)	(1.27) 2	(1.39)	(0.23)	(0.12) 1
Appeals Panel 2 (3)	(1.27) 2	(1.39) 1	(0.23)	(0.12)
Appeals Panel 3 (3)	(1.27) 1	(1.39) 1	(0.23)	(0.12) 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>30</u></b>	<b><u>32</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>

(70 seats in all)

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