



**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 30 October 2014

**Wards Affected:** All wards in Torbay

**Report Title:** Review of Political Balance

**Is the decision a key decision?** No

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** Immediately

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## **1. Purpose and Introduction**

- 1.1 To ensure that the places on committees are allocated in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements.

## **2. Proposed Decision**

- 2.1 **That the overall political balance of the committees, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.**

## **3. Reason for Decision**

- 3.1 Following notification from Councillor Andrew Baldrey that he wishes to be a Member of the Non-Coalition Group, the political balance for the Council needs amending.
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## **Supporting Information**

### **4. Position**

- 4.1 Following notification from Councillor Andrew Baldrey that with effect from 9 October 2014, he now wishes to be a Member of the Non-Coalition Group this has resulted in changes to the political make-up of the Council. There are now 21 members of the Conservative Group (including the elected Mayor), 8 members of the Liberal Democrat Group, 7 members of the Non-Coalition Group and 1 Labour member. The political balance is now:

Conservative Group	21 seats	= 56.8%
Liberal Democrat Group	8 seats	= 21.6%
Non-Coalition Group	7 seats	= 18.9%
Labour	1 seat	= 2.7%

- 4.2 The change in the political make-up of the Council has resulted in two seats on committees being transferred from the Liberal Democrat Group to the Non-Coalition Group. Proportional distribution of seats on committees is set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to allocate seats on committees to political groups in accordance with the size of each group as a whole, unless alternative arrangements are notified to all members and agreed without any councillor voting against them. The Council is required to observe the following principles as far as it is reasonably practicable:
- (a) that not all seats on the body are allocated to the same group;
  - (b) that the majority of seats on the body are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
  - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
  - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group 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 authority.
- 4.4 The Executive is excluded from the requirements of political balance.
- 4.5 The Council is required to determine the number of seats on each committee and the allocation of those seats to the political groups and the independent members. Applying the principles of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the supporting Regulations, the distribution of seats (attached in the table set out in Appendix 1) would be proportional (co-opted members are not included in the calculation for proportionality purposes).
- 4.6 Members are asked to note that any decision to waive the requirements of political balance will require a resolution of the Council with no member voting against.

## **5. Possibilities and Options**

- 5.1 The allocation of seats on committees must be proportional to the political composition of the Council unless the Council resolves otherwise with no member voting against.

## **6. Fair Decision Making**

6.1 The appointments have regard to equal opportunities.

## **7. Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012**

7.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 is not applicable as no procurement is being undertaken.

## **8. Risks**

8.1 There is a statutory requirement to undertake a review of political balance following a change in the political composition of the Council. This review has been completed. Therefore there are no risks unless members fail to determine the matter.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Appointments to Committees

## **Additional Information**

None

### Political Balance of Committees

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat Group</b>	<b>Non-Coalition Group</b>	<b>Labour Member</b>	<b>Total</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Board	5	2	2		9
Audit Committee	4	1	1		6
Development Management Committee	5	2	2		9
Licensing Committee	8	3(-1)	3(+1)	1	15
Harbour Committee	5	2	2		9
Employment Committee	3	1		1	5
School Transport Appeals Committee	4	1(-1)	2(+1)		7
Civic Committee	4	2	1		7
Standards Committee	4	2	1		7
	42	16	14	2	74