



COUNCIL

**Meeting: Thursday, 27th January 2022 at 6.30 pm
in Gloucester Guildhall, 23 Eastgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1NS**

ADDENDUM

The following item was partly provided for on the agenda, but some matters were not available at the time of publication. This item has been accepted as urgent.

14.	APPOINTMENTS (PAGES 5 - 8)
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	To receive the report of the Head of Paid Service setting out changes to the membership of committees to ensure statutory political balance and receiving nominations for various appointments.
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Yours sincerely

Jon McGinty
Managing Director

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

<u>Interest</u>	<u>Prescribed description</u>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area. For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) – (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and

(b) either –

- i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
- ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, “securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

Access to Information

Agendas and reports can be viewed on the Gloucester City Council website: www.gloucester.gov.uk and are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

For further details and enquiries about this meeting please contact Tanya Davies, 01452 396125, tanya.davies@gloucester.gov.uk.

For general enquiries about Gloucester City Council's meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk.

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- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.

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Meeting:	Council	Date:	27 January 2022
Subject:	Review of Political Balance on Committees and Various Appointments		
Report Of:	Head of Paid Service		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Tanya Davies, Policy and Governance Manager		
	Email: tanya.davies@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 396125	
Appendices:	None		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the circumstances surrounding the review of political balance were not known until after the agenda had been published.

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To make changes to the membership of committees to ensure statutory political balance following Councillor Alastair Chambers' move to become an Independent Councillor.
- 1.2 To note the appointments to vacant seats on committees resulting from changes to the Cabinet.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** to:

- (1) Approve the proposed changes to membership of Committees as set out in this report.
- (2) Receive and note the following nominations to Committees as required by the proposed changes:
 - Planning Committee – 1 additional seat (Liberal Democrat) – nomination to be sought
 - Licensing and Enforcement Committee – 1 additional seat (Liberal Democrat) – nomination to be sought
 - Planning Policy Members Working Group – 1 vacant seat (Conservative) – Councillor Jaro Kubaszczyk
- (3) Note the following appointments to vacant seats resulting from changes to the Cabinet:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 vacant seat (Conservative) – Councillor Andrew Gravells
- General Purposes Committee – 1 vacant seat (Conservative) – Councillor Andrew Gravells.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Councillor Alastair Chambers became an Independent Councillor on 26 January 2022. There are now 24 Conservative, 11 Liberal Democrat, 3 Labour, and 1 Independent Councillor. Consequently, there is a need to review the political balance of the Council and make any necessary changes to the political composition of committees.
- 3.2 Table 1 below indicates the political balance of the Council before and after the change:

	Old Composition		New Composition	
	Seats	%	Seats	%
Conservative	25	64.10%	24	61.54%
Liberal Democrat	11	28.21%	11	28.21%
Labour	3	7.69%	3	7.69%
Other	0	0%	1	2.56%

- 3.3 When applied to the total number of committee seats (56) seats these percentages give the following aggregate entitlement (rounded up/down to the nearest whole seat) for each Group:

Conservative	61.54% of 56 =	34 (34.46) (-2)
Liberal Democrat	28.21% of 56 =	16 (15.8)
Labour	7.69% of 56 =	4 (4.31)

Variance in total seats = -2

- 3.4 Noting that Independent Councillors, unless aligned as an independent group, have no entitlement to seats on Committees, when the same percentages are applied to the number of seats on each committee/body they give the following provisional entitlement to seats on each committee/body, rounded up or down to the nearest whole seat (the numbers in brackets represent any changes to the current committee composition):

Committee	Size	Con	Lib Dem	Lab	Other	Seat Variance
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16	10	5	1	0	0
Planning Committee	12	7(-1)	3	1	0	-1
Licensing and Enforcement Committee	12	7(-1)	3	1	0	-1
Audit and Governance Committee	8	5	2	1	0	0
General Purposes Committee	8	5	2	1	0	0
TOTAL	56	34	15	5	0	-2

- 3.5 The calculation above results in a total variance of -2 seats across all committees/bodies subject to political proportionality. To reach the total available number of seats (56), it is proposed that allocations are adjusted as follows:

Committee	Size	Con	Lib Dem	Lab	Other	Seat Variance
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16	10	5	1	0	0
Planning Committee	12	7	4	1	0	0
Licensing and Enforcement Committee	12	7	4	1	0	0
Audit and Governance Committee	8	5	2	1	0	0
General Purposes Committee	8	5	2	1	0	0
TOTAL	56	34	17	5	0	0

3.6 The number of seats based on proportionality and each political party's entitlement is therefore as follows:

	Provisional allocation	Entitlement to seats on committees/bodies based on proportionality/Widdicombe principles	Variation
Conservative	34	34	0
Liberal Democrat	16	17	+1
Labour	4	5	+1
Other	0	0	0

Other changes to committee roles and membership

3.7 In accordance with the Constitution, representation on Planning Policy Member Working Group is not subject to the political balance rules, therefore it is proposed the allocation of seats is not changed. In May, the Labour Group chose not to take up their allocated seat and the Liberal Democrat Group instead appointed to that seat.

3.8 Councillor Gravells stood down from the Cabinet on 18 November 2021 and Councillor Stephanie Chambers was appointed as Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy on 1 January 2022. The Conservative Group has appointed Councillor Gravells to their vacant seats on Overview and Scrutiny Committee and General Purposes Committee.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

4.1 None

5.0 Environmental Considerations

5.1 None.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 None

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 To comply with statutory requirements to achieve and maintain political balance on Committees and to fill any vacant roles and seats on committees.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 None

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 None

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 require the overall political balance of Council to be reflected in Committees (so far as possible) and to review the political balance when necessary (for example where the political balance changes as a result of a by-election). This report seeks to comply with those obligations.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 None

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 A PIA is not required.

13.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

- 13.1 None

Staffing & Trade Union

- 13.2 None

Background Documents: None