

# Report

Report to: **South Lanarkshire Council**  
Date of Meeting: **31 January 2024**  
Report by: **Chief Executive**

Subject: **Composition of the Council and Membership Places**

## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of a recent change to the composition of the Council following the resignation of Councillor Horsham from the SNP Group and the proposed allocation of committee places

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

2.1. The Council is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the current political composition of the Council, as detailed in Appendix 1, be noted;
- (2) that Councillor Marrs replace Councillor Horsham on the Education Resources Committee, with Councillor Horne filling the resulting place as a substitute member;
- (3) that Councillor Marrs replace Councillor Horsham on the Education Appeals Committee;
- (4) that Councillor Anderson replace Councillor Horsham on the Social Work Resources Committee, with Councillor Dewar filling the resulting place as a substitute member;
- (5) that Councillor Horne replace Councillor Horsham and Councillor Donnelly replace Councillor Ferguson-Miller on the Planning Committee, with Councillor Ferguson-Miller becoming a substitute member;
- (6) that Councillor Shearer replace Councillor Horsham on the Planning Local Review Body;
- (7) that Councillor Ferguson-Miller replace Councillor Horsham as a substitute member on the Licensing Committee;
- (8) that Councillor Clark replace Councillor Horsham as a substitute member on the Rural Task Force;
- (9) that Councillor McDougall replace Councillor Horsham as a Trustee on both the South Lanarkshire Charitable Trust and the South Lanarkshire Educational Trust;
- (10) that Councillor Marrs replace Councillor Horsham on the South Lanarkshire Cycling Partnership;
- (11) that Councillor Shearer replace Councillor Horsham as a substitute member on the Standards and Procedures Advisory Forum;
- (12) that Councillor Ross replace Councillor Horsham on the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Board;

- (13) that, as there is an equality in percentage entitlement for both the Labour and SNP Groups which does not equate to a full number and requires to be rounded up or down in terms of appointments to the Executive Committee, Climate Change and Sustainability Committee, Licensing Committee, Petitions Committee, Equal Opportunities Forum and Standards and Procedures Advisory Forum, consideration be given to whether the place is allocated to the Ruling Group; and
- (14) that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leaders of the relevant political groups, to finalise memberships of those bodies listed in Recommendation (13), or any other outstanding places, on the basis approved by the Council.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1. Following the resignation of Councillor Horsham from the SNP Group, the political composition of the Council has changed and the allocation of committee places requires to be considered.

### **4. Places on Committees**

- 4.1. While there is no statutory requirement in terms of allocating membership places, the Council endeavours to reflect the overall political balance in the membership of its committees, forums, Joint Boards and Outside Bodies insofar as is reasonably practicable.
- 4.2. The political composition of Resource Committees, Planning Committee, Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee, Recruitment Committee and Planning Local Review Body remains unchanged, as does most of the Forum memberships. It is, therefore, proposed that those places previously filled by Councillor Horsham are allocated to the SNP Group.
- 4.3. There is now an equality in percentage entitlement for both the Labour and SNP Groups which does not equate to a full number and requires to be rounded up or down in terms of appointments to:-
- ◆ Executive Committee
  - ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
  - ◆ Licensing Committee
  - ◆ Petitions Committee
  - ◆ Equal Opportunities Forum\*
  - ◆ Standards and Procedures Advisory Forum\*

\* As all Groups are represented on both of these forums, the percentages have never calculated exactly in terms of places. As SNP originally had the highest amount of members, they benefited from getting their entitlement, while there was no capacity to increase Labour

- 4.4. In the past, it has been custom and practice to grant any unfilled spaces on committees, forums or boards to the Ruling Group. However, there has never been a situation where the 2 largest groups have had an equality of numbers/percentage entitlement.

- 4.5. A copy of the current and revised breakdown of those committees/forums which are affected is detailed at Appendix 1, with places highlighted in red. Consideration requires to be given as to whether the rounding up of places is allocated to the Ruling Group. In accordance with usual practice, any alternative proposal would require to be proposed and seconded and, in the event of an equal number of votes, Standing Orders would apply.

**5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. None.

**6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 None.

**7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

**8. Other Implications**

- 8.1 There are no risks or sustainability issues in terms of the information contained in this report.

**9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. There was no requirement for an equality impact assessment or formal consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

**Paul Manning**  
**Chief Executive**

8 January 2024

**Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

**Previous References**

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council of 23 August 2023

**List of Background Papers**

None

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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### Breakdown of Committee Memberships

#### Previous Council Breakdown:

Scottish National Party 26 (40.63%); Labour 25 (39.06%); Conservative 7 (10.94%); Liberal Democrats 3 (4.69%); Independent Group 2 (3.13%); Green 1 (1.56%)

Committee	Total Membership	Leader ex officio	SNP	Lab	Con	Lib Dems	Ind Group	Green
<b>Executive Committee</b> * Chair of CCSC	28 + 1*	1	11	10	3	1 + 1*	1	1
<b>Climate Change and Sustainability Committee (CCSC)</b>	28	1	11	10	3	1	1	1
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	10	1	4	3	1	1	-	-
<b>Petitions Committee</b>	9	-	4	3	1	1		
<b>Equal Opportunities Forum/ Standards and Procedures Advisory Forum</b> [As all Groups are represented on both these forums, the percentages have never calculated exactly in terms of places. As SNP originally had the highest amount of members, they benefited from getting their entitlement, while there was no capacity to increase Labour]	11	-	4	3	1	1	1	1

#### Current Council Breakdown:

Scottish National Party 25 (39.06%); Labour 25 (39.06%); Conservative 7 (10.94%); Liberal Democrats 3 (4.69%); Independent Group 2 (3.13%); Green 1 (1.56%)

Committee	Total Membership	Leader ex officio	SNP	Lab	Con	Lib Dems	Ind Group	Green
<b>Executive Committee</b> * Chair of CCSC	28 + 1*	1	10.54	10.54	3	1 + 1*	1	1
<b>Climate Change and Sustainability Committee (CCSC)</b>	28	1	10.54	10.54	3	1	1	1
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	10	1	3.52	3.52	1	1	-	-
<b>Petitions Committee</b>	9	-	3.52	3.52	1	1		
<b>Equal Opportunities Forum/ Standards and Procedures Advisory Forum</b> [* One Group would require to drop to 3 members to accommodate the requirement for all groups to be represented, the other would remain at 4]	11	-	4.3*	4.3*	1	1	1	1