
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	9 October 2014
Report By:	Head of Legal & Property Services	Report No:	GM/LP/052/14
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Subject:	Scheme of Administration: Political Balance		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the requirements to ensure political balance on Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies (where appropriate) following upon the resignation from the Labour Group of Councillor Vaughan Jones.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Councillor Jones intimated on 11 September 2014 her resignation from the Labour Group and her intention to serve as an Independent Elected Member in Ward 4.

2.2 This resignation means that the political balance on Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies (where appropriate) requires to be reviewed in order to comply with the Council's approved Scheme of Administration.

2.3 Paragraph 5.4 of the Scheme of Administration requires the Council to ensure that, as far as is practicable, the appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Outside Bodies (where more than two representatives of the Council are required) reflect the balance of representation on the Council.

2.4 The previous political balance of the Council was:

10 Labour 6 SNP 2 Liberal Democrat 1 Conservative 1 Independent

The present political balance, taking the above resignation into account is:

9 Labour 6 SNP 2 Liberal Democrat 2 Independents 1 Conservative

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Council:-

- (a) Considers the terms of this report;
- (b) Approves the re-balancing of Committees as detailed in **Appendix 1**; and
- (c) Makes the appropriate adjustments to the membership of its Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Paragraph 5.4 of the Scheme of Administration requires the Council to ensure that, as far as is practicable, the appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Outside Bodies (where more than two representatives of the Council are required) reflect the balance of representation on the Council.
- 4.2 The resignation of Councillor Jones means that the political balance on Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies (where appropriate) requires to be reviewed.
- 4.3 The previous political balance meant the representation on all of the Council's standing Committees and Boards of 11 Members was:-

Labour	6 Members
SNP	3 Members
Liberal Democrats	1 Member
Conservative }	1 Member
Independent }	

- 4.4 The alteration in political balance means that membership of the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies (with more than two Council representatives) needs to change to reflect the position.
- 4.5 The one Conservative Member and two Independents are not aligned within any group and this means the present political balance for the Standing Committees and Boards of 11 Members will be altered as follows (also shown in **Appendix 1**):-

Labour	5 Members
SNP	3 Members
Liberal Democrats	1 Member
Conservative }	2 Members
Independent }	
Independent }	

This new political balance means that: (a) Labour representation is reduced by one Member in each of the main Committees and Boards; (b) the SNP and Liberal Democrat balances are unaffected; and (c) there are three Members (one Conservative and, now, two Independents) who are entitled to two appointments to each of the main Committees and Boards.

- 4.6 For Members' ease of reference, **Appendix 1** sets out the existing (and proposed) political balance on the main Committees and Boards and **Appendix 2** details the existing party-by-party representation on these.

5.0 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

- 5.1 To give effect to the new political balance with minimal disruption to the main Committees and the General Purposes Board and the Planning Board, it is possible to:-
- reduce Labour representation by one Member on each of these; and,
 - appoint as a replacement either the Conservative Member or one of the two Independents (who is, of course, not already on the Committee or Board).

This is shown in **Appendix 3**.

In terms of the previous political balance, the one Conservative Member (Councillor Wilson) is represented on three of the main Committees and the one Independent Member (Councillor Ahlfeld) is represented on four of the main Committees (as set out in **Appendix 2**).

When considering adjustments to the membership of Committees to reflect the present political balance, the Council should seek to ensure that the replacement Member on each of the main Committees and Boards reflects the political balance between the one Conservative Member and the two Independents, so that each of these 3 Members is represented equally as far as possible and in line with what they may wish as individuals.

- 5.2 The Council could confirm Conveners, Vice-Conveners and Chairs as existing subject to any replacement being proposed for Councillor Jones in her capacity as Vice-Convener of the Health & Social Care Committee.
- 5.3 The Licensing Board is a separate statutory body and there is an argument for not including it in the current re-balancing exercise. Furthermore, the existing membership of the Licensing Board does not, in any case, presently represent the existing political balance of the Council with there being 3 Labour Members, 2 SNP Members, 1 Liberal Democrat Member, 1 Conservative Member and 1 Independent.

6.0 REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- 6.1 In terms of paragraph 5.4 of the Scheme of Administration, the Council requires to ensure that appointments to Outside Bodies reflect as far as practicable the balance of political representation on the Council where more than 2 representatives of the Council are required.
- 6.2 It is essential to reflect as far as possible the actual political balance of the Council in Committees, Sub-Committees and Boards. With Outside Bodies, however, it remains important but not essential to apply the political balance and some discretion is possible. This discretion can take account of Member availability for the range of tasks and attendances involved with the respective Outside Bodies. This discretion appears also to have accommodated, at times, a less formal political balance among the individual political parties with a general balance being attained informally between the Administration and the Opposition, overall, rather than a party-by-party split.
- 6.3 As listed in **Appendix 4**, there are 13 Outside Bodies where more than 2 representatives of the Council are required.
- 6.4 The current party-by-party balance is set out for information and guidance in **Appendix 5**. This party-by-party approach can be modified by the Council if it wished to take account of pressures on Members or their individual wishes for representation on Outside Bodies by a more general arrangement based on the overall proportion of Labour Members (45%) to all Opposition Members (55%) and this scheme is also set out for guidance in **Appendix 5**.
- 6.5 **Appendix 6** sets out the proposed representation on Outside Bodies (more than 2 representatives) following the resignation of Councillor Jones from the Labour Group. This proposed representation is for Members' decision given the requirement for political balance, on the one hand, yet recognising the discretion allowed for the availability of and pressures upon Members in these duties with Outside Bodies
- 6.6 Councillor Jones is presently the Council's representative on the COSLA Health & Wellbeing Executive Group.

7.0 MEMBER CHAMPIONS

- 7.1 Councillor Jones is presently the Council's Carers' Champion.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 8.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments

Legal

8.2 There are no Legal implications.

Human Resources

8.3 There are no Human Resources implications.

Equalities

8.4 There are no equalities implications.

Repopulation

8.5 There are no repopulation implications.

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

9.1 N/A

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 N/A

APPENDIX 1 – POLITICAL BALANCE (STANDING COMMITTEES, GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD AND PLANNING BOARD)

EXISTING

PARTY	NO. MEMBERS	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	REPRESENTATION
Labour	10	50	5.5	6
SNP	6	30	3.3	3
Liberal Democrat	2	10	1.1	1
Conservative	1	5	0.5}	1
Independent	1	5	0.5}	
				Total = 11

PROPOSED

PARTY	NO. MEMBERS	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	REPRESENTATION
Labour	9	45	4.95	5
SNP	6	30	3.3	3
Liberal Democrat	2	10	1.1	1
Conservative	1	5	0.5}	2
Independent	1	5	0.5}	
Independent	1	5	0.5}	
				TOTAL = 11

APPENDIX 2 – MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - EXISTING

COMMITTEE	NO. MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE	LABOUR	SNP	LIB DEM	CONS	INDEPENDENT
Policy & Resources	11	6	3	1	1	
Environment & Regeneration	11	6	3	1		1
Education & Communities	11	6	3	1	1	
Health & Social Care	11	6	3	1		1
Audit	11	6	3	1		1
General Purposes Board	11	6	3	1		1
Planning Board	11	6	3	1	1	
HR Appeals Board	5	3	1	1		
Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee	6	3	2		1	
Grants Sub-Committee	6	3	1	1	1	
Inverclyde CHCP Sub-Committee	5 (Council Members)	3	1	1		
Local Review Body	5	3	1		1	

APPENDIX 3 – MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - PROPOSED

COMMITTEE	NO. MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE	LABOUR	SNP	LIB DEM	CONS	INDEPENDENTS		COMMENTS
						R AHLFELD	V JONES	
Policy & Resources	11	5	3	1	1	#	#	Replace 1 Labour Member with 1 Member from those marked #
Environment & Regeneration	11	5	3	1		1	1	If continuation of Councillor Jones membership is assumed - see Note 1
Education & Communities	11	5	3	1	1	#	#	Replace 1 Labour Member with 1 Member from those marked #
Health & Social Care	11	5	3	1		1	1	If continuation of Councillor Jones membership is assumed - see Note 1
Audit	11	5	3	1		1	1	If continuation of Councillor Jones membership is assumed - see Note 1
General Purposes Board	11	5	3	1		1	1	If continuation of Councillor Jones membership is assumed - see Note 1
Planning Board	11	5	3	1	1		1	If continuation of Councillor Jones membership is assumed - see Note 1
HR Appeals Board	5	2	2				1	If continuation of Councillor Jones membership is assumed- see Note 1
Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee	6	3	2	1				0.3 Cons } 0.3 Indep (RA) } = 0 0.3 Indep (VJ) }
Grants Sub-Committee	6	3	2	1				0.3 Cons } 0.3 Indep (RA) } = 0 0.3 Indep (VJ) }
Inverclyde CHCP Sub-Committee	5 (Council Members)	2	2	1				0.3 Cons } 0.3 Indep (RA) } = 0 0.3 Indep (VJ) }
Local Review Body	5	2	2		1			Replace 1 Labour Member with 1 SNP Member and assume continuation of Chair

Note 1: The political balance requires the Conservative Member and the 2 Independents to have, as far as possible, equality of representation on Committees and Boards. This can be achieved by Councillor Jones relinquishing membership of at least one of the main Committees/Boards on which Councillor Wilson is not represented.

APPENDIX 4 – OUTSIDE BODIES (MORE THAN 2 REPRESENTATIVES) - EXISTING

OUTSIDE BODY	NO. OF MEMBERS	LABOUR	SNP	LIB DEM	CONS	INDEPENDENT
Fair Trade Steering Group	3	R Moran V Jones	J MacLeod			
Inverclyde Alliance Board	4	S McCabe J Clocherty	J MacLeod	K Shepherd		
Inverclyde Branch of the Scottish Veterans' Garden City Assoc (inc)	5	G Dorrian M Brennan V Jones	I Nelson	L Rebecchi		
Inverclyde Community Development Trust	3	J Clocherty J McIlwee				R Ahlfeld
Inverclyde Crime Prevention Panel	3	R Moran	M Campbell-Sturgess	K Shepherd		
Inverclyde Leisure	5	J McColgan T Loughran J Clocherty	M Campbell-Sturgess			R Ahlfeld
James Campbell Buchanan Trust	5	M Brennan J Clocherty J McColgan	I Nelson	L Rebecchi		
Peter Stanton Memorial Trust - Trustees	3 (Council Members)	R Moran S McCabe	J MacLeod			
Renfrewshire Educational Trust - Board	3	T Loughran M Brennan	I Nelson			
Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board	4 (with named substitutes)	M Brennan V Jones	I Nelson	K Shepherd		
River Clyde Homes Board	4	S McCabe J McIlwee	C McEleny			R Ahlfeld
Riverside Inverclyde	3	S McCabe J Clocherty			D Wilson	
Scottish Accident Prevention Council and Committees	3	G Dorrian	C McEleny	L Rebecchi		

APPENDIX 5 – POLITICAL BALANCE (OUTSIDE BODIES)

3 REPRESENTATIVES

PARTY	NO. MEMBERS	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	REPRESENTATION PARTY-BY-PARTY	REPRESENTATION ADMINISTRATION/OVERALL
Labour	9	45	1.35	1	1
SNP	6	30	0.9	1	2
Liberal Democrat	2	10	0.3}	1	
Conservative	1	5	0.15}		
Independent (RA)	1	5	0.15}		
Independent (VJ)	1	5	0.15}		

4 REPRESENTATIVES

PARTY	NO. MEMBERS	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	REPRESENTATION PARTY-BY-PARTY	REPRESENTATION ADMINISTRATION/OVERALL
Labour	9	45	1.8	2	2
SNP	6	30	1.2	1	2
Liberal Democrat	2	10	0.4}	1	
Conservative	1	5	0.2}		
Independent (RA)	1	5	0.2}		
Independent (VJ)	1	5	0.2}		

5 REPRESENTATIVES

PARTY	NO. MEMBERS	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	REPRESENTATION PARTY-BY-PARTY	REPRESENTATION ADMINISTRATION/OVERALL
Labour	9	45	2.25	2	2
SNP	6	30	1.5	2	3
Liberal Democrat	2	10	0.5}	1	
Conservative	1	5	0.25}		
Independent (RA)	1	5	0.25}		
Independent (VJ)	1	5	0.25}		

APPENDIX 6 – OUTSIDE BODIES (MORE THAN 2 REPRESENTATIVES) - PROPOSED

OUTSIDE BODY	NO. OF MEMBERS	EXISTING		PROPOSED		COMMENTS
		LABOUR	OPPOSITION	LABOUR	OPPOSITION	
Fair Trade Steering Group	3	2	1	1	2	Continue R Moran, appoint 1 opposition representative, continue 1 opposition representative (J MacLeod)
Inverclyde Alliance Board	4	2	2	2	2	No change
Inverclyde Branch of the Scottish Veterans' Garden City Assoc (inc)	5	3	2	2	3	Continue G Dorrian and M Brennan, appoint 1 additional opposition representative, continue 2 opposition representatives (I Nelson and L Rebecchi)
Inverclyde Community Development Trust	3	2	1	1	2	Relinquish 1 Labour representative, appoint 1 opposition representative, continue 1 opposition representative (R Ahlfeld)
Inverclyde Crime Prevention Panel	3	1	2	1	2	No change
Inverclyde Leisure	5	3	2	2	3	Relinquish 1 Labour representative, appoint 1 additional opposition representative, continue 2 opposition representatives (M Campbell-Sturgess and R Ahlfeld)
James Campbell Buchanan Trust	5	3	2	2	3	Relinquish 1 Labour representative, appoint 1 additional opposition representative, continue 2 opposition representatives (I Nelson and L Rebecchi)
Peter Stanton Memorial Trust – Trustees	3 (Council Members)	2	1	1	2	Relinquish 1 Labour representative, appoint 1 opposition representative, continue 1 opposition representative (J MacLeod)
Renfrewshire Educational Trust – Board	3	2	1	1	2	Relinquish 1 Labour representative, appoint 1 opposition representative, continue 1 opposition representative (I Nelson)
Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board	4 (with named substitutes)	2	2	2	2	Continue M Brennan, appoint 1 Labour representative, continue K Shepherd and I Nelson
River Clyde Homes Board	4	2	2	2	2	No change
Riverside Inverclyde	3	2	1	1	2	Relinquish 1 Labour representative, appoint 1 opposition representative, continue 1 opposition representative (D Wilson)
Scottish Accident Prevention Council and Committees	3	1	2	1	2	No change