

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

22 January 2024

Committee places for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Audit & Governance Committee

1. The Combined Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 (made under the powers contained within the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) provides that the Combined Authority must appoint to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee “so that the members of the committee taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the constituent councils when taken together”.
2. However it should be noted that Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides the duty of a relevant authority (including a Combined Authority) to allocate seats to political groups and Section 16 sets out the Authority’s duty to give effect to allocations.
3. Therefore there is a question on whether to base political proportionality on political **groups** or political **parties**. Table 1 shows the basis of the calculation on political groups and Table 2 shows the basis on political parties. It is noted that a number of Combined Authorities use the latter methodology.
4. On the basis of both tables it is recommended that the political balance be:

Committee	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	NY Ind/ Ind	Green	Total
Overview and Scrutiny	4	3	3	1	1	12
Audit and Governance	3	2	2	1	0	8
Total seats	7	5	5	2	1	20

5. The constituent councils are asked to nominate six members each for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and four members each for the Audit and Governance Committee. These nominations are to follow and to be approved by the Combined Authority.

Table 1: Proportionality by Registered Political Parties

Group	City of York Council	North Yorkshire Council	Total	Proportion of CA Seats	=	%
Conservative	3	45	48	$(48/137 \times 100)$	=	35.04
Labour	24	11	35	$(35/137 \times 100)$	=	25.55
Liberal Democrat	19	13	32	$(32/137 \times 100)$	=	23.36
Liberal	0	1	1	$(1/137 \times 100)$	=	0.73
Independent	1	15	16	$(16/137 \times 100)$	=	11.67
Green	0	4	4	$(4/137 \times 100)$	=	2.92
Yorkshire Party	0	1	1	$(1/137 \times 100)$	=	0.73
						100.00

Committee	Seats	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Libs	Ind	Green	Yorks Party	TOTAL
		35.04%	25.55%	23.36%	0.73%	11.67%	2.92%	0.73%	
Overview & Scrutiny	12	4 (4.20)	3 (3.07)	3 (2.80)	0 (0.09)	1 (1.40)	0 or 1 (0.35)	0 (0.09)	12
Audit and Governance	8	3 (2.80)	2 (2.04)	2 (1.87)	0 (0.06)	1 (0.93)	0 (0.23)	0 (0.06)	8
Total Seats	20	7.01	5.11	4.67	0.15	2.33	0.58	0.15	20
Rounding to nearest decimal place		7	5	5	0	2	1	0	20

Table 2: Proportionality by Political Groups

Group	City of York Council	North Yorkshire Council	Total	Proportion of CA Seats		%
NYC Conservative and Inds	0	48	48	(48/137 x 100)	=	35.04
CYC Conservatives	3	0	3	(3/137 x 100)	=	2.19
Labour	24	11	35	(35/137 x 100)	=	25.55
Liberal Democrat and Liberals	0	14	14	(14/137 x 100)	=	10.22
Liberal Democrats	19	0	19	(19/137 x 100)	=	13.87
NY Independents	0	11	11	(11/137 x 100)	=	8.03
Unaffiliated	1	2	3	(3/137 x 100)	=	2.19
Green	0	4	4	(4/137 x 100)	=	2.92
						100.00

Committee	Seats	NYC Con (Ind)	CYC Con	Lab	CYC Lib Dem	NYC Lib Dem and Libs	NY Ind	Ind Unaff	Green	TOTAL
		35.04%	2.19%	25.55%	13.87%	10.22%	8.03%	2.19%	2.92%	
Overview & Scrutiny	12	4 (4.20)	0 (0.26)	3 (3.07)	2 (1.66)	1 (1.23)	1 (0.96)	0 (0.26)	0 or 1 (0.35)	12
Audit and Governance	8	3 (2.80)	0 (0.18)	2 (2.04)	1 (1.11)	1 (0.82)	1 (0.64)	0 (0.18)	0 (0.23)	8
Total Seats	20	7.01	0.44	5.11	2.77	2.05	1.61	0.44	0.58	20
Rounding to nearest decimal place		7	0	5	3	2	2	0	1	20