

2 High Street
Perth
PH1 5PH

27th April 2018

Dear Councillor Lyle,

RE: STATUS OF INDEPENDENT GROUP AND LABOUR COUNCILLOR

The Independent councillors hereby give notice, following our joint meeting on Thursday 26th April 2018, with Councillor Bailey, of our intention to withdraw immediately from the Partnership Administration of Perth and Kinross Council. Following Councillor McDade's withdrawal of his confidence and supply agreement in January (for reasons we have some empathy with) and the meetings on Wednesday with Councillors Barnacle and Brock before full Council, given the outcome of that latter meeting in relation to the vote to replace Councillor McDade with a Conservative councillor, rather than an Independent one (a subject which was not discussed at the Partnership meeting on 23/4/18) we feel we have no option but to take this decision.

We the three Independent councillors and Labour councillor hereby state our intention to be regarded as a group on the Council, which has been the Independents' stated position since the election in May 2017, a position reaffirmed to the Chief Executive in June and September last year. We expect Democratic Services to regard us as such and that as a group of four we should be entitled to our proportional share of committee places as per the Councils Standing Orders i.e. as far as possible equating to 1/10th of committee places. Should this not be addressed, we shall be taking independent legal advice to secure it.

We do not regard ourselves as being in opposition to your administration and are not forming an alliance with the SNP group, but rather intend to sit as cross-benchers, considering issues on a case-by-case basis. We would hope to work constructively with your Conservative/Liberal Democrat administration and not make life difficult for you, unless you make life difficult for us.

The three Independent councillors and Labour councillor, not unsurprisingly, find significant common ground between us as first and foremost community representatives, particularly in relation to current topics such as the flexibility needed in devolving power to communities, opposing care home and rural school closures, etc.

We realise we may have to give up our convenership roles, but regard the course of action outlined above as paramount if we are to be treated with respect at Council level.

In our view, it is unfortunate how the Partnership approach set out after the election by our late colleague Ian Campbell has not been sustained and that this letter is necessary. We are agreed that no other course of action is possible. Obviously, it will now no longer be necessary to change our current office arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor M. Barnacle
Councillor R. Brock