
REPORT TO:	ANNUAL COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 13
DATE OF MEETING:	17TH MAY 2012	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	NEIL BETTERIDGE (595895)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 1.1(e), the Council appoints the Committees and Sub-Committees as set out at Annexe 'A' together with the six Area Forums detailed in Article 9 of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 That the Council approves and adopts the recommended allocation of seats to the Political Groups for the municipal year 2012/13.
- 1.3 That the Council allocates seats between the Political Groups as set out at Annexe 'A' and invites the two Groups to make nominations to fill the seats.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To consider the Council's political proportionality for the municipal year 2012/13.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Council's duty to determine the allocation of seats is prescribed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act") (specifically subsections (3) to (5) as modified by The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ("the Regs")). A Political Group is defined as being constituted by at least two Members who have advised the proper officer of the local authority in writing that they wish to be treated as a Political Group.
- 3.2 The political composition of the Council is currently as follows:-
 - Conservative Group 19
 - Labour Group 17
- 3.3 The Council is required to review the representation of the different Political Groups on Committees and Sub-Committees at, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting of the Council; or where notice is received of a change in the composition of Political Groups.

3.4 The principles of determination are as follows:-

- (a) All the seats are not allocated to the same Group;
- (b) The majority of the seats go to the Group (if any) which has an overall majority on the Council;
- (c) Subject to the above two principles, that the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary Committees allocated to each Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the Full Council.

3.5 The total number of Committee seats on the District Council for allocation is 97. After calculating the proportionality for the two Groups, this gives 51 seats to the Conservative Group and 46 seats to the Labour Group, as indicated on the schedule attached at Annexe 'A'.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The rules on political balance are covered by Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and by The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 None.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 Local Government and Housing Act 1989
The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990