

## ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES TO POLITICAL GROUPS

1.0 In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulations made thereunder, the Council must, amongst other times, review the representation of political groups on Committees at the request of a member elected to fill a casual vacancy on the Council. Councillor Len Harris, elected to the Council for the Totton West Ward at the by-election on 20 July 2006, has submitted such a request.

2.0 Councillor Harris's election and his joining the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council means that the political representation on the Council is now:

Conservative	31
Liberal Democrat	28
Independent	1

Prior to the casual vacancy occurring, the political representation was:

Conservative	32
Liberal Democrat	27
Independent	1

The political groups' representation as a percentage of the full Council is therefore:

Conservative	51.66%
Liberal Democrat	46.66%
Independent	1.66%

3.0 Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that, in making appointments to committees or bodies to which the principles of proportionate representation apply, it must be ensured that:-

- (a) not all the seats on the committee or body are allocated to the same political group;
- (b) the majority of seats on the committee or body are allocated to the political group with the majority on the full Council;
- (c) subject to the above two principles, the number of seats on the **total** of all the ordinary committees of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full council; and
- (d) subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on **each** ordinary committee of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.

- 4.0 Insofar as New Forest District Council is concerned, the Committees, etc., to which the above principles apply are set out in Appendix 1. Also shown on this appendix are the allocations of seats, bearing in mind the principles set out in 3(a) and (b) above. Because it is a requirement that the group with the majority on the full council has a majority on each of the Committees/Panels to which proportionality applies, the Conservative Group holds a greater percentage of the total number of seats than its percentage of the membership of the full council.
- 5.0 Adjusting the number of places on Committees or Panels could redress the situation, but there is no legal requirement for this to be done.

**Further information:**

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**Background Papers:**

Published documents

<b>Numbers on Council</b>		<b>% of full Council</b>				
Conservative	31	51.67%				
Liberal Democrat	28	47%				
Independent	1	1.67%				
<b>Existing Committee/Panel Places to which principles of proportionality apply</b>						
Appeals	20					
Final Accounts	5					
GP&L	15					
Industrial Relations	8					
Planning DC	20					
Corporate Overview	14					
Crime & Disorder	10					
Economy & Planning	10					
Environment	10					
Housing, Health & Social Inclusion	10					
Leisure	10					
Commercial Services Overview & Scrutiny	3					
<b>Total Committee/Panel Places</b>	<b>135</b>					
<b>Existing allocations, with Conservative Group having majority on each</b>						
	<b>Con</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>Ind</b>			
Appeals	10	9	1	(Con given up 1 place to IND)		
<b>Final Accounts</b>	3	2				
GP&L	8	7				
Industrial Relations	5	3				
Planning DC	11	9				
Corporate Overview	8	6				
Crime & Disorder	6	4				
Economy & Planning	6	4				
Environment	6	4				
Housing, Health & Social Inclusion	6	4				
Leisure	6	4				
Commercial Services Overview & Scrutiny	2	1				
<b>Total seats to each Group</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1</b>			
<b>% Allocation of places to Groups:</b>						
Conservatives	57.04%					
Lib Dems	42.22%					
Independent	0.74%					
(July 2006)						