

## ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 15(1)(b) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, The Council must review the representation of political groups on committees at the annual meeting each year or as soon as practicable thereafter. For this purpose, “committees” includes the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Panels but excludes the Cabinet.
- 1.2 The Act prescribes, amongst other things that, so far as reasonably practicable:-
- (a) not all the seats on a committee are allocated to the same political group;
  - (b) where a group has a majority of seats on the Authority it should have the majority of seats on each committee; and
  - (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on committees allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion as the total of the membership of that group to the membership of the authority.
- 1.3 These provisions need not be applied if a different position is agreed without any member of the authority voting against.

### 2. DISTRICT ELECTIONS 2019

- 2.1 Following the election of Councillors on 2 May 2019, the political balance of the Council stands at:-

Conservative Group 46 (76.67%)

Liberal Democrat Group 13 (21.67%)

Independent 1

### 3. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS

- 4.1 There are 111 Committee/Panel seats to which appointments should be made under the principles of proportionality.
- 4.2 The following table details an allocation of seats to the political groups.

<b>Committee/Panel</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Appeals Committee	20	16	4	-
Audit Committee	8	6	2	-
General Purposes and Licensing Committee	15	12	3	-
HR Committee	8	6	2	-
Planning Committee	20	16	4	-
Community and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel	10	8	2	-
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel	10	8	2	-

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel	10	8	2	-
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel	10	8	2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>23</b>	-

- 4.4 Only Groups that consist of two or more Members are entitled to be included in the calculation of seats.
- 4.5 The Council will note that the calculations, as determined by the requirement for seats to be allocated proportionally to the political groups only, result in the Independent Member securing no seats on any Committee. The Council could, if it so resolved by a resolution with no Member voting against the resolution, depart from proportionality to allocate a seat(s) to the Independent Member.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

## **8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Political balance ensures that Committees and Panels are representative of the wishes of the electorate.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That appointments be made to committees and panels in accordance with the principles for the allocation of seats to political parties as set out in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, except in those cases where it is decided, without any member voting against, not to apply the principles of proportionality.
- 9.2 That the Council appoints members to the Committees and Panels as set out in table 4.2, giving effect to the wishes of the political groups, for the four year period commencing 20 May 2019. The wishes of the political groups will be tabled at the meeting.
- 9.3 That the Council determine whether it wishes to allocate a seat(s) to the Member not aligned to a political group on such Committee(s) as the Council may determine.

### **For further information contact:**

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### **Background Papers:**

Local Government and Housing Act 1989