

Council Meeting	Agenda Item 10
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Meeting Date	22 October 2014
Report Title	Political Balance and Appointments to Committees
Portfolio Holder	Leader
SMT Lead	Director of Corporate Services
Lead Officer	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open

Recommendation	1. The Council is asked to agree the political balance calculation as set out in Appendix I.
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1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires Local Authorities to review the allocation of seats on committees following an election. Once the Council has agreed the allocation of Committee places between the political groups the Council must then appoint the nominees of the political groups to the committees.

2 Background

- 2.1 Political groups on the Council are formed in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 when 2 or more Councillors must notify the Proper Officer of their wish to be treated as a group.

The following principles apply to the allocation of seats:

- (a) That not all seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;
- (b) That the majority of seats on each Committee is allocated to a particular group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
- (c) Subject to (a) and (b), that, when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council, must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership; and
- (d) Subject to (a) and (c), that the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.

Sub-committees are also governed by the political balance rules, but it is not necessary to add up all the sub-committee seats and then allocate them in

proportion. As far as this is predictable, the allocation of seats on each sub-committee should reflect the proportional representation of the political groups on the Council.

- 2.3 Each of the political groups are entitled to a certain number of seats on committees. This is based on their percentage representation on the Council as a whole, as detailed in Appendix I. This is then required to be manually adjusted to ensure that the number of seats allocated to a particular group matches and does not exceed their entitlement.
- 2.4 To ensure the overall political balance the Labour Group need to gift one seat to the Conservative Group and this will be advised at the meeting. There are four remaining seats available on General Licensing Committee, Policy Development and Review Committee, Scrutiny Committee and Standards Committee. The Independent and UKIP Groups are each entitled to two of the four seats and they will advise at the meeting which seats they have taken respectively.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 The Council is asked to agree the revised political balance calculation for the civic year 2014/15.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Council can decide to change the number and size of Committees; however, this will have an impact on the number of seats available on the Council and will therefore require the political balance to be re-calculated to reflect this. Members are encouraged to make Officers aware in advance of the meeting of any proposals of this nature.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 All Group Leaders have been made aware of this report and have been asked to advise Democratic Services of their nominations to seats on Committees for their respective Groups. This information will be circulated to Members after the Council meeting and added to the Council's website.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	
Financial, Resource and Property	The cost of servicing the Council's committees will be met within existing budgets. The establishment of any additional Committees would have financial and human resource implications.
Legal and	The relevant legislation has been included in the body of the report.

Statutory	
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- Appendix i: Political Balance Calculation 2014/15

8 Background Papers

None.

Political Balance Calculation 2014/15

Party Group	Conservative		Labour		Independent Group		UKIP		Total		
Number of members	30		13		2		2		47		
Overall proportionality	0.638298		0.276596		0.042553		0.042553		1		
Total entitlement	64.468085		27.93617		4.297872		4.297872		101.00		
Total Rounded Entitlement	65		28		4		4		101.00		
Size of Committee	Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement		Strict Entitlement		
Committees											
Planning Committee	17	10.8510638	11	4.70212766	4	0.72340426	1	0.723404255	1	17.00	17
General Licensing Committee	10	6.38297872	6	2.76595745	3	0.42553191	1	0.425531915	1	10.00	11
Policy Development and Review Committee	11	7.0212766	7	3.04255319	3	0.46808511	1	0.468085106	1	11.00	12
Scrutiny Committee	13	8.29787234	8	3.59574468	4	0.55319149	1	0.553191489	1	13.00	14
Audit	9	5.74468085	6	2.4893617	3	0.38297872	0	0.382978723	0	9.00	9
General Purposes	9	5.74468085	6	2.4893617	3	0.38297872	0	0.382978723	0	9.00	9
Emergency Committee	6	3.82978723	4	1.65957447	2	0.25531915	0	0.255319149	0	6.00	6
Standards Committee	11	7.0212766	7	3.04255319	3	0.46808511	1	0.468085106	1	11.00	12
Licensing Act 2003	15	9.57446809	9	4.14893617	4	0.63829787	1	0.638297872	1	15.00	15
Total Seats	101	64.4680851	64*	27.9361702	29*	4.29787234	6*	4.29787234	6*	101.00	105

*NOTE: Please refer to paragraph 2.4 which sets out the adjustments needed to achieve overall political balance.

