

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL****1 FEBRUARY 2012****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****BY-ELECTION : 15 DECEMBER 2011 –  
ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES  
AND CATTLE MARKET WORKING GROUP****1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Following the by-election for the Frisby on the Wreake Ward held on 15 December 2011 and the resulting change in political balance, it is a requirement that the Council reconsiders and determines the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees in accordance with the political balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended) for the period to the Annual Meeting in May 2012 (Appendix A).
- 1.2 The Council is also requested to consider and determine the proposals of the political groups for the membership of the Cattle Market Working Group for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2012 (Appendix A).

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **To approve the political balance percentages and number of seats allocated to each political group as set out in the table at paragraph 3.3.**
- and**
- 2.2 **To approve the allocation of Councillors to each Committee and Sub-Committee (where required) as submitted by the Political Group Leaders for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2012 (Appendix A).**
- 2.3 **To approve the proposals of the political groups for membership of the Cattle Market Working Group for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2012 (Appendix A).**
- 2.4 **To note that political balance is not required for the Licensing or Standards Committees and that there is no change in the membership of these Committees as a result of this report.**
- 2.5 **To note that as a result of the by-election, there is no change to Chairs, Vice Chairs, Forums, Partnerships, Outside Organisations, Lead Members and memberships of the Working Groups apart from the Cattle Market.**
- 2.6 **To note that in accordance with the political balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended) political balance is to be achieved in total across all the Committees and within all individual Committees requiring political balance and to note also that political balance applies to Sub-Committees as required.**

### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Sections 15-17 (as amended) explains that the Council is required to allocate seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance of the Council. The Act also states that political balance is required not only across the Committees but also within each Committee and Sub-Committee.

3.2 Where political balance requirements apply, the Council may vary the requirements by resolution provided that no Member of the Council votes against the resolution. Political groups are not entitled to have more than their allocated share of seats.

3.3 The following table shows the number of Councillors in each political group, the percentage of representation required within the Council and the allocation of seats over the 6 Committees that require to be politically balanced :-

Group	No. of Councillors	Percentage	Allocation of Seats over 6 Committees
Conservative	19	68% (67.85)	38.76 = 39
Labour	7	25% (25.00)	14.25 = 14
Independent	2	7% (7.14)	3.99 = 4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100% 99.99</b>	<b>57 seats</b>

3.4 The following table gives the allocation of seats in accordance with political balance given the percentages involved :-

2011/12	APP	CSA	DEV	OSA	PFA	REEA	TOTALS
Conservative	4 (3.40%)	7 (6.80%)	7 (7.48%)	7 (6.80%)	7 (6.80%)	7 (7.48%)	<b>39 (39)</b>
Labour	1 (1.25%)	2 (2.5%)	3 (2.75%)	3 (2.5%)	2 (2.5%)	3 (2.75%)	<b>14 (14)</b>
Independent	0 (0.35%)	1 (0.70%)	1 (0.77%)	0 (0.70%)	1 (0.70%)	1 (0.77)	<b>4 (4)</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5 (√)</b>	<b>10 (√)</b>	<b>11 (√)</b>	<b>10 (√)</b>	<b>10 (√)</b>	<b>11 (√)</b>	<b>57</b>

3.5 Paragraph 3.4 shows that the main change in the allocation of seats on the above Committees as a result of the by-election is that on each of the 11 seat Committees, the Conservative Group has lost 1 seat and the Independent Group has gained these 2 seats.

3.6 As mentioned above in 3.2, the seats must balance across Committees and within Committees. The 2 main groups balance across Committees and the Independent Group has been allocated the remaining seats. Officers have been advised this is within the wishes of the Independent Group.

3.7 Under the political balance position applied in paragraph 3.3, Labour has been allocated 2 seats on the Council Business Development Sub Committee in accordance with the accepted practice that the 1.5% allocation has a stronger right to the additional seat than the Independent Group with 0.42%. The following table shows that position and due to this there is no change to the membership of this Sub Committee in this report :-

<b>Council Business Development</b>	<b>6 Seats - Allocation of Seats</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Conservative	4 (4.08%)	<b>4</b>
Labour	2 (1.5%)	<b>2</b>
Independent	0 (0.42%)	<b>0</b>

3.8 The Licensing and Standards Committees do not require to be politically balanced and are therefore not included in the above calculations. Also there are no current vacancies on these Committees, therefore the membership of these Committees is not included in this report.

3.9 Under the political balance position applied in paragraph 3.3, the Council is to consider political balance of Working Groups where this is required. The only Working Group which has sufficient membership to make a change to the political balance is the Cattle Market Working Group being 8 Members. Less than 8 Members, does not change the current balance arrangements and therefore only this Working Group is included for consideration.

3.10 Appendix A gives the political groups' nominations to the relevant Committees and the Cattle Market Working Group for the period to the Annual Meeting in May 2012.

#### **4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy or corporate implications in this report.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial or resource implications in this report.

#### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 The legislation relating to political balance and associated interpretation is contained within this report.

#### **7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no community safety implications in this report.

#### **8.0 EQUALITIES**

8.1 The Council has an equal opportunities and diversity policy and Councillors are required to receive training on equalities. Therefore when appointing Members to their roles, it is assumed that Group Leaders would take equalities issues into consideration.

#### **9.0 RISKS**

9.1 There are no risk implications in this report.

#### **10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no climate change implications in this report.

## 11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 There has been consultation with the Group Leaders.

## 12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are affected by this report.

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Contact Officer: Senior Democracy Officer

Date: January 2012

Appendices : Appendix A - Membership of Committees 2011/12  
Appendix B - Membership of Forums, Partnerships & Working Groups 2011/12

Background Papers: Local Government & Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended)

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