

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**12 DECEMBER 2012****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES, A SUB-COMMITTEE
AND WORKING GROUPS****1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Following a change in political group memberships and a by-election held on 15 November 2012, the Council is requested to review its political balance arrangements.
- 1.2 Due to 1.1 above, the Council is also requested to consider the proposals of the political groups in respect of its membership of committees, a sub committee and working groups.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **To approve the revised political balance percentages and number of seats allocated to each political group as set out in paragraph 3.3.**
- 2.2 **To approve the allocation of Councillors to each Committee and a Sub-Committee as set out in paragraph 3.4.**
- 2.3 **To approve the allocation of Councillors to Committees and a Sub Committee including substitutes as submitted by the Political Group Leaders for the remainder of the Civic Year to the Annual Meeting in 2013 (Appendix A).**
- 2.4 **To approve the allocation of Councillors to the Working Groups as submitted by the Political Group Leaders for the remainder of the Civic Year to the Annual Meeting in 2013 (Appendix B).**
- 2.5 **To note that political balance is not required for the Licensing & Regulatory Committee.**
- 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 At the Annual Meeting held on 9 May 2012, the Council determined the allocation of seats on Committees and a Sub-Committee in accordance with the political balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended) and received nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2013. The Act states that political

balance is required not only across the Committees but also within each Committee and Sub-Committee.

3.2 Following a change in political group memberships and a by-election held on 15 November 2012, the Council needs to reconsider the political balance overall its Committees as well as the allocation of seats within Committees, the Sub Committee and the politically balanced Working Groups.

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	18	64%	(64.28)	36.48 = 36
Labour	6	22%	(21.42)*	12.54 = 13
Independent	4	14%	(14.28)	7.98 = 8
Totals	28	100%	99.98	57 seats

*rounded up as the highest decimal point percentage

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

2012/13	APP	CSA	DEV	GOV	PFA	REEA	TOTAL
Conservative	3 (3.20%)	7 (6.40%)	7 (7.04%)	6 (6.40%)	6 (6.40%)	7 (7.04%)	36
Labour	1 (1.10%)	2 (2.20%)	2 (2.42%)	3 (2.20%)	3 (2.20%)	2 (2.42%)	13
Independent	1 (0.70%)	1 (1.40%)	2 (1.54%)	1 (1.40%)	1 (1.40%)	2 (1.54%)	8
Totals	5	10	11	10	10	11	57

3.5 On the 10 seat committees (CSA, GOV, PFA), there was 1 seat on each of these committees to be allocated to complete the committee memberships and meet overall committee balance (right hand column). There were 2 seats to be allocated to Labour and 1 to the Conservative Group. Overall political balance was achieved by offering the seat on each Committee to the group with the highest percentage on the relevant Committee. Therefore the Conservative Group with 1 additional seat to make overall political balance (0.4%) made their selection first. The Labour Group as they had less right under political balance (0.2%) were allocated the remaining 2 seats.

3.6 With regard to the Council Business Development Sub-Committee, the following table shows the allocation of seats and that the sub committee is politically balanced :-

2012/13		TOTAL
Conservative	4 (3.84%)	4
Labour	1 (1.32%)	1
Independent	1 (0.84%)	1
Total		6

3.7 The Licensing & Regulatory Committee does not require to be politically balanced and is therefore not included in the above calculations.

3.8 Appendix A gives the political groups' proposals for membership of Committees and the Sub-Committee as well as appointed substitutes and Appendix B gives the

political groups' proposals for the Working Groups. All appointments are for the remainder of the Civic Year to the Annual Meeting in 2013.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Political proportionality plays an important role in all the Council's priorities especially in it being 'A well run Council'.

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 its associated interpretation is referred to within this report as well as reference to the Constitution where required.

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 To not meet the requirements of the legislation as explained in the report could result in legal challenge.

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 leading Group Leader.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards are affected by this report.

Contact Officer:	Senior Democracy Officer
Date:	28 November 2012
Appendices :	Appendix A – Proposed allocation of seats on Committees and a Sub Committee Appendix B – Proposed membership of Working Groups
Background Papers:	Local Government & Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended) Constitution Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9 May 2012

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