

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**24 APRIL 2013****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS****1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Following a change in political group membership initiated by the resignation of a Councillor from the Labour Group becoming a sole independent, the Council is requested to review its political balance arrangements.
- 1.2 The Council is also requested to consider the proposals of the political groups in respect of its allocation of seats to committees, a sub committee and working groups.
- 1.3 The Council is requested to consider the membership of the Development Committee being the only committee that will meet before the Annual Meeting on 8 May 2013.

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 3.4.**
- 2.2 **To approve the allocation of Councillors to each Committee and a Sub-Committee as set out in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.8.**
- 2.3 **To approve the change in membership of the Development Committee until the Annual Meeting on 8 May 2013 being to replace Councillor Gordon with a Labour Councillor.**
- 2.4 **To approve the allocation of seats to the Working Groups as set out in paragraph 3.10.**
- 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 reconsidered 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 On 22 March 2013, Councillor Gordon informed the Chief Executive that she had resigned from the Labour Group and become a sole independent Councillor not aligned to any existing group. This report is presented to the Council to reconsider its political balance position at this meeting being the next available opportunity to do so. Also due to the Annual Meeting being held 2 weeks hence and there being only one scheduled committee between this Council Meeting and the Annual Meeting, Group Leaders have agreed to reconsider the membership of the Development Committee only at this meeting and review other memberships at the Annual Meeting.
- 3.4 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 = 37**
Labour	5	18%	(17.86)*	10.26 = 10
Independent Group	4	14%	(14.28)	7.98 = 8
Single Councillor	1	4%	(3.57)*	2.28 = 2
Totals	28	100%	99.99	57 seats

* rounded up as over 0.5

** rounded up as the highest decimal point percentage and to meet the 57 seat requirement

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

April 2013	APP	CSA	DEV	GOV	PFA	REEA	TOTAL
Conservative	3 (3.20%)	7 (6.4%)	7 (7.04%)	7 (6.4%)	6 (6.4%)	7 (7.04%)	37
Labour	1 (0.9%)	2 (1.8%)	2 (1.98%)	1 (1.8%)	2 (1.8%)	2 (1.98%)	10
Independent	1 (0.70%)	1 (1.4%)	2 (1.54%)	1 (1.4%)	1 (1.4%)	2 (1.54%)	8
Single Cllr	0 (0.2%)	0 (0.4%)	0 (0.44%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.44%)	2
Totals	5	10	11	10	10	11	57

- 3.6 On the 10 seat committees (CSA, GOV, PFA), Conservative and Labour selected their remaining seats to meet their overall committee seat allocation. Firstly, this was approached by offering the seat(s) on each committee to the group with the highest decimal point percentage on the relevant committee(s). Therefore Labour was first to allocate as they had the highest decimal point percentage (being 0.8%). Labour select the 2 committees that they wished to allocate 2 seats on, these being CSA and PFA. As Labour had allocated 1 seat to the Governance Committee, the

Conservative Group was allocated a seat to this committee before allocating its final seat to CSA or PFA. CSA was chosen for the final Conservative seat.

Once the Conservative and Labour groups had confirmed their allocations for the 10 seat committees, the remaining 2 seats may be allocated by the Council to the Single Councillor to complete the membership of those committees, these being Governance and PFA.

- 3.7 The only change needed to the Development Committee membership under the new political balance arrangements is for Councillor Gordon to be removed from the committee's membership and the Labour Group fill the vacancy.
- 3.8 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 :-

April 2013	Council Business Development	TOTAL
Conservative	3.84%	4
Labour	1.08%	1
Independent	0.84%	1
Single Cllr	0.24%	0
Totals		6

- 3.9 The Licensing & Regulatory Committee does not require to be politically balanced and is therefore not included in the above calculations.
- 3.10 With regard to the politically balanced working groups, the new allocation of seats is as follows and again the membership to the seats will be addressed at the Annual Meeting :-

April 2013	Budget & Strategic Planning	Cattle Market	Joint Staff	Melton Local Development Framework
Conservative	4 (3.84%)	5 (5.12%)	5 (4.48%)	5 (4.48%)
Labour	1 (1.08%)	2 (1.44%)	1 (1.26%)	1 (1.26%)
Independent	1 (0.84%)	1 (1.12%)	1 (0.98%)	1 (0.98%)
Single Cllr	0 (0.24%)	0 (0.32%)	0 (0.28%)	0 (0.28%)
Totals	6	8	7	7

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 Group Leaders.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are affected by this report.

Contact Officer: Senior Democracy Officer
Date: April 2013
Background Papers: Local Government & Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended)
Constitution
Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9 May 2012

X : Committees\Council \2012 13\240413\SE-Committee Seats – April 2013