

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

8 MAY 2013

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES, MEMBERSHIP OF FORUMS, PARTNERSHIPS, WORKING GROUPS, OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND APPOINTMENT OF LEAD MEMBERS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Council is to note its political balance and allocation of seats on Committees and a Sub-Committee following approval of the same at the Council Meeting held on 24 April 2013 in accordance with the political balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended).

1.2 The Council is requested to consider and determine the proposals of the political groups for the following :-

(a) nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014 (Appendix A).

(b) the positions of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and the Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014 (Appendix B);

(c) membership of Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014 (Appendix C);

(d) membership to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014 (Appendix D);

(e) Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014 (Appendix E).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **To note the political balance percentages and number of seats allocated to each political group as set out in the table at paragraph 3.4 and as approved at the Council Meeting on 24 April 2013.**

2.2 **To note the allocation of Councillors to each Committee and Sub-Committee as set out at paragraph 3.5 approved at the Council Meeting on 24 April 2013 and the nominations as submitted by the Political Group Leaders for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014 (Appendix A).**

2.3 **To approve the proposals of the political groups for the positions of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and for the Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014 (Appendix B).**

2.4 **To approve the proposals of the political groups for membership of Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014 (Appendix C).**

- 2.5 To approve the proposals of the political groups for membership to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014 (Appendix D).
- 2.6 To approve the proposals of the political groups to the positions of Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014 (Appendix E).
- 2.7 To note that political balance is not required for the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.
- 2.8 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 Following a change in political group membership initiated by the resignation of a Councillor from the Labour Group becoming a sole independent, the Council reviewed its political balance arrangements at its meeting on 24 April 2013 and this position, shown in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 has remained until this Annual Meeting.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Where political balance requirements apply, the Council may vary the requirements by resolution provided that no Member of the Council votes against the resolution.
- 3.4 The following table was approved at the Council Meeting on 24 April 2013 and 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 was approved at the Council Meeting on 24 April 2013 and gives the allocation of seats in accordance with political balance given the percentages involved :-

2013/14	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	2	2	1	2	2	10

	(0.9%)	(1.8%)	(1.98%)	(1.8%)	(1.8%)	(1.98%)	
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 that 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 were allocated by the Council to the Single Councillor to complete the membership of those committees, these being Governance and PFA.

- 3.7 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

- 3.8 The Licensing and Regulatory Committee does not require to be politically balanced and is therefore not included in the above calculations.
- 3.9 With regard to the politically balanced working groups, the allocation of seats approved at the Council Meeting on 24 April 2014 is shown in the table below with the increase in size of the Melton Local Development Framework Working Group from 7 to 9 Members being as approved at that meeting. The proposals for membership to the seats is as set out at Appendix C.

May 2013	Budget & Strategic Planning	Cattle Market	Joint Staff	Melton Local Development Framework
Conservative	4	5	5	6
Labour	1	2	1	2
Independent	1	1	1	1
Single Cllr	0	0	0	0
Totals	6	8	7	9

- 3.10 The appendices give the political groups' proposed membership of Committees, the Sub-Committee, Chairs and Vice Chairs, Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups, appointments to Outside Organisations and Lead Members for 2013/14.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Political proportionality plays an important role in 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 associated interpretation is contained 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 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 Political Group Leaders.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards are affected by this report.

Contact Officer: Senior Democracy Officer

Date: April 2013

Appendices : Appendix A - Membership of Committees 2013/14
Appendix B - Committee Chairman & Vice Chairman 2013/14
Appendix C - Membership of Forums, Partnerships & Working Groups 2013/14
Appendix D - Representatives on Outside Organisations 2013/14
Appendix E - Lead Members 2013/14

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

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