

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

14 MAY 2014

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Council is to consider and determine 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) and receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015.

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, including substitutes, for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015 (Appendix A) as well as each group's Committee Spokespersons and Consultees (Appendix Ai);

(b) the positions of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and Sub Committees for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015 (Appendix B);

(c) membership of Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015 (Appendix C);

(d) appointments to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015 (Appendix D);

(e) Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015 (Appendix E).

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.**

2.2 **To approve the allocation of Councillors to each Committee and Sub Committees as set out at paragraphs 3.4 and 3.6 and the nominations, including substitutes, as submitted by the Political Group Leaders for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015 (Appendix A);**

2.3 **To approve each political group's nominations for Committee spokespersons and consultees (Appendix Ai);**

- 2.4 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 2015 (Appendix B).
- 2.5 To approve the proposals of the political groups for membership of Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015 (Appendix C).
- 2.6 To approve the proposals of the political groups for membership to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015 (Appendix D).
- 2.7 To approve the proposals of the political groups to the positions of Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015 (Appendix E).
- 2.8 To note that political balance is not required for the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.
- 2.9 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.
- 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 = 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

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

2014/15	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

3.5 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.

3.6 With regard to the Governance Sub Committees 1 and 2, the following table shows the allocation of seats and that the Sub Committees are politically balanced :-

May 2014	Governance Sub Committees	TOTAL
Conservative	3.2%	3
Labour	0.9%	1
Independent	0.7%	1
Single Cllr	0.2%	0
Totals		5

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

3.8 Each political group has nominated Committee spokespersons and consultees and these are set out at Appendix Ai.

3.9 With regard to the politically balanced working groups, the allocation of seats is shown in the table below. The proposals for membership to these seats are set out within Appendix C.

May 2014	Budget & Strategic Planning	Cattle Market	Joint Staff	Melton Local Development Framework	Tenant Consultative
Conservative	4	5	5	6	4
Labour	1	2	1	2	1
Independent	1	1	1	1	1
Single Cllr	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	6	8	7	9	6

3.10 The appendices give the political groups' proposed membership of Committees and Sub-Committees, each political group's nominations for Committee spokespersons

and consultees, Chairs and Vice Chairs, Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups, appointments to Outside Organisations and Lead Members for 2014/15.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Political proportionality plays an important role in all the Council's priorities especially in 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 An Equalities Screening Assessment has been completed. It is noted that the Council's political arrangements are governed by legislation and this relates to there being political proportionality and fairness in accordance with the wishes of the electorate.

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 2014

Appendices : Appendix A - Membership of Committees 2014/15
Appendix Ai - Committee Spokespersons and Consultees 2014/15
Appendix B - Committee Chairman & Vice Chairman 2014/15
Appendix C - Membership of Forums, Partnerships & Working Groups 2014/15
Appendix D - Representatives on Outside Organisations 2014/15
Appendix E - Lead Members 2014/15

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

X : Committees\Council Meetings\2014 15\140514