

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

19 MAY 2011

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 consider and determine 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 receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2012 (Appendix A).

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

(a) the positions of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and the Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2012 (Appendix B);

(b) membership of Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2012 (Appendix C);

(c) membership to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2012 (Appendix D);

(d) Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2012 (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.**

and

2.2 **To approve the allocation of Councillors to each Committee and Sub-Committee 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 the positions of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and for the Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2012 (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 2012 (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 2012 (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 2012 (Appendix E).
- 2.7 To note that political balance is not required for the Licensing or Standards Committees.
- 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 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	20	71.43% (71.4285)	40.7151 = 41
Labour	7	25.00% (25.00)	14.25 = 14
Single Cllr	1	3.57% (3.5714)	2.0356 = 2
Totals	28	100% (99.9999)	57 seats

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

2012/12	APP	CSA	DEV	O&S	PFA	REEA	TOTALS
Conservative	4	7	8	7	7	8	41
Labour	1	2	3	2	2	3	14
Single Cllr							2
Totals	5	10 <small>*Awaiting Labour seat to be allocated</small>	11	10 <small>*Awaiting Labour seat to be allocated</small>	10 <small>*Awaiting Labour seat to be allocated</small>	11	57

- 3.5 With regard to the single Member, they are not entitled to any allocation of seats under the regulations and political groups are not entitled to have more than their allocated share of seats. It is up to the Council to determine how the remaining 2 places are filled from any Councillor/s who are not in a group. This is a decision for

the Full Council. The legislation is often interpreted that a single Councillor is entitled to fair representation.

- 3.6 On the figures given at 3.4, Labour has *1 seat unallocated to meet its entitlement of 14 seats and dependent on which Committee the group chooses out of those Committees with 9 Members ie. CSA, OSA and PFA, the remaining 2 seats could be allocated to the single Councillor to make up the membership of those Committees. Therefore the table at 3.4 is not complete due to the Labour nominations not yet being available – a revised version of the table at 3.4 will be supplied prior to the meeting.
- 3.7 Under the rules 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 seats than the single Member has to one seat with 0.321%. The following table shows that position :-

Council Business Development	6 Seats - Allocation of Seats	TOTAL
Conservative	4 (4.29%)	4
Labour	2 (1.5%)	2
Single Cllr	0 (0.321%)	

- 3.8 Licensing and Standards Committees do not require to be politically balanced and are therefore not included in the above calculations.
- 3.9 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 2011/12.

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 Political Group Leaders.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are affected by this report.

Contact Officer: Senior Democracy Officer

Date: 10 May 2011

Appendices :
Appendix A - Membership of Committees 2011/12
Appendix B - Committee Chairman & Vice Chairman 2011/12
Appendix C - Membership of Forums, Partnerships & Working Groups 2011/12
Appendix D - Representatives on Outside Organisations 2011/12
Appendix E - Lead Members 2011/12

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

X : Committees\Council \2011 12\SE-Committee Seats 2011 12