

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

15 MAY 2018

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES, MEMBERSHIP OF FORUMS, PARTNERSHIPS, WORKING GROUPS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

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 2019.
- 1.2 The Council is requested to consider and determine the proposals of the political groups for the following whilst taking into consideration the principle that where a large group occupies all but one or two seats on the Council, the first rule prohibiting single party Committees takes precedence, and the Council must make one place available for the other Councillors on each Committee/Sub Committee :-
- (a) nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and Sub Committee, for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2019 (Appendix A);
 - (b) the positions of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees and Sub Committees for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2019 (Appendix B);
 - (c) appointments to Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups including taking account of political balance where required for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2019 (Appendix C);
 - (d) appointments to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2019 (Appendix D).

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 Committee as shown at paragraphs 3.4 and 3.7 and the nominations, as submitted by the Political Group Leader for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2019 set out in Appendix A;**
- 2.3 **To approve the proposals of the political group for the positions of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees and for the Sub Committees for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2019 (Appendix B);**
- 2.4 **To approve the allocation of Councillors to each Working Group as shown at paragraphs 3.9 and 3.10 and the nominations including Forums and**

Partnerships as submitted by the Political Group Leader for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2019 as set out in Appendix C;

- 2.5 **To approve the proposals of the political group for appointments to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2019 (Appendix D);**
- 2.6 **To note that political balance is not required for the Licensing and Regulatory Committee;**
- 2.7 **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;**
- 2.8 **To note that political balance has been applied to the two politically balanced working groups in accordance with the legislation outlined at paragraph 2.7;**
- 2.9 **To note the principle that where a large group occupies all but one or two seats on the Council, the first rule prohibiting single party Committees takes precedence, and the Council must make one place available for the other Councillor(s) on each Committee/Sub Committee and each politically balanced working group.**

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 a political group, the percentage of representation required within the Council and the allocation of seats over the 7 Committees that require to be politically balanced :-

Group	No. of Councillors	Percentage	Allocation of Seats over 7 Committees
Conservative	26	92.86%	58.50 = 59
Single Cllr (Ind)	1	3.57%	2.25 = 2
Single Cllr (Lab)	1	3.57%	2.25 = 2
Totals	28	100%	63 seats

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

2018-19	Appeals	Corporate	Governance	People	Place	Planning	Recruitment	TOTAL
Conservative	4 (4.64%)	9 (9.28%)	9 (9.28%)	9 (9.28%)	9 (9.28%)	10 (10.21%)	6 (6.50%)	56
Single Cllr Ind	1 (0.18%)	1 (0.36%)	- (0.36%)	- (0.36%)	- (0.36%)	1 (0.39%)	1 (0.25%)	4
Single Cllr Lab	- (0.18%)	- (0.36%)	1 (0.36%)	1 (0.36%)	1 (0.36%)	- (0.39%)	- (0.25%)	3
Totals	5	10	10	10	10	11	7	63

3.5 The political composition is that the Conservatives are the only political group with a majority of 26 Councillors and the remaining 2 Councillors are not aligned to form a group. Therefore they are known as Single Councillors. Each of the Single Councillors has an allocation of 2 seats.

3.6 However the table at paragraph 3.4 shows that the Conservative Group has not taken up its full allocation of 59 seats across Committees as the rule of not having single party Committees and Sub Committees applies, therefore even though the Conservative Group could take up 3 more Committee seats and all the Sub Committee seats, to comply with the legislation they must release a seat on each Committee and Sub Committee. Therefore the Conservative Group has a practical allocation of 56 seats across the Committees and this leaves one seat on each Committee for the Single Councillors. The Single Councillors may decide between them who takes which seat. If the individuals cannot agree, the Council may allocate the seats.

3.7 With regard to the Sub Committees, the following table shows the allocation of seats. It should be taken into account when determining the Single Councillor allocation to the Sub Committees that the Single Councillor who takes the parent Committee seat will automatically take the seat on the relevant Sub Committee.

2018-19	Governance Sub Cttees 1 & 2
Conservative	4 (4.64%)
Single Cllr Ind	- (0.18%)
Single Cllr Lab	1 (0.18%)
Totals	5

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 following table shows the number of Councillors in a political group, the percentage of representation required within the Council and the allocation of seats over the 2 politically balanced working groups :-

Group	No. of Councillors	Percentage	Allocation of Seats over 2 Working Groups
Conservative	26	92.86%	14.86 = 14
Single Cllr Ind	1	3.57%	0.57 = 1
Single Cllr Lab	1	3.57%	0.57 = 1
Totals	28	100%	16 seats

- 3.10 The following table shows the allocation of seats on the working groups in accordance with political balance given the percentages involved :-

Working Groups 2018 19	Joint Staff (7)	Melton Local Plan (9)	Total
Conservative	6 (6.50%)	8 (8.36%)	14
Single Cllr Ind	1 (0.25%)	- (0.32%)	1
Single Cllr Lab	- (0.25%)	1 (0.32%)	1
Totals	7	9	16

- 3.11 The rule of not having single party Committees and Sub Committees also applies to working groups. Therefore the Conservative Group must release a seat on each working group. As there are 2 working groups, this means that one of the Single Councillors will take up a seat on each of the working groups. As with the Committee seats allocation, the Single Councillors will be given the opportunity to decide how the seats are allocated and should agreement not be reached, the Council will allocate the seats.
- 3.12 It was agreed at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 8 May 2018 that where possible the roles of representatives to partnerships and outside organisations align to the chair or vice chair of the relevant committees and this be the default position unless there was some business reason, such as the work of the organisation was ward related, to appoint a different Member.
- 3.13 The appendices give the political group's proposed membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups, the political group's nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs, Forums, Partnerships, and appointments to Outside Organisations for 2018/19.

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 Any financial and resource issues will be met from existing resources.

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

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant				
	D	Low				
	E	Very Low		1		
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4
			IMPACT			

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Challenge to Council decisions should legislation and political balance not be followed where required

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 Leader and other Councillors

involved.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are indirectly affected by this report.

Contact Officer	Chief Executive
Date:	May 2018
Appendices :	Appendix A - Membership of Committees & Sub Committees Appendix B - Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs Appendix C - Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups Appendix D - Outside Organisations
Background Papers:	Local Government & Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended)
Reference :	X : Committees\Council Meetings\2018 19 Annual Meeting