

Political Balance and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups – REVISED PARAGRAPH 5.2

5.2 Political Balance and Allocation of Seats

- 5.2.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, imposes a duty on the Council to review the representation of different political groups and allocation of seats at its annual meeting in respect of its ordinary committees.
- 5.2.2 The Section does not apply to the Council's Cabinet, Licensing Committee or to other working groups (apart from the Joint Staff Working Group) all of which are exempt from political balance.
- 5.2.3 The current composition of the Council (not including the non aligned member) is shown in the following table. Using 38 as the total number of voting places across all committees, the final column shows the total number of places each group is entitled to, using the calculated proportions.

The political proportionality rules that apply in allocating seats on Committees etc. set out in Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 apply only to political groups and not non-aligned (un-grouped) Members. Alternative arrangements not complying with section 15 and 16 of the 1989 Act may be made by virtue of Section 17 of the 1989 Act by passing a resolution with no member voting against the resolution. Where unanimity cannot be reached the Council must revert to the arrangements as set out in s.15 and s.16 of the 1989 Act which provides the political balance calculation set out below:

Group Name or Non-aligned	No of Cllrs	Percentage across the Council	Allocation of Seats over 4 Committees 38 seats	
			Decimal	Rounded no
Conservative	21	77.78%	29.56	30
Opposition	6	22.22%	8.44	8
Totals	27	100%	38 seats	38 seats

- 5.2.4 The allocations set out in the table below show the allocation of seats to political groups (not including the non-aligned councillor) as agreed between the political groups:

Group Name or Non-aligned	Audit & Standards	Planning	Scrutiny	Employment	TOTAL
Conservative	8 (7.78)	9 (8.56)	8 (7.78)	5 (5.44)	30
Opposition	2 (2.22)	2 (2.44)	2 (2.22)	2 (1.56)	8
Totals	10	11	10	7	38

- 5.2.5 Appendix A shows the membership of each committee, as informed by Group Leaders where known at the time of publication.