
REPORT TO:	ANNUAL COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 15
DATE OF MEETING:	18 MAY 2023	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	MONITORING OFFICER	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
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SUBJECT:	POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council approves and adopts the recommended allocation of seats to the Political Groups and Non-Grouped Members for the municipal year 2023/24.
- 1.2 That the Council allocates seats between the Political Groups and Non-Grouped Members as set out at Annexe 'A' and invites Group Leaders and Non-Grouped Members to make nominations to fill the seats.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To consider the Council's political proportionality for the municipal year 2023/24.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Council's duty to determine the allocation of seats is prescribed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act") (specifically subsections (3) to (5) as modified by The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ("the Regs")). A Political Group is defined as being constituted by at least two Members who have advised the proper officer of the local authority in writing that they wish to be treated as a Political Group.
- 3.2 The political composition of the Council is as follows:-
 - Labour Group 23
 - Conservative Group 9
 - Non-Grouped 1
 - Vacant 3
- 3.3 The Council is required to review the representation of the different political groups on Committees and Sub-Committees at, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting of the Council; or where notice is received of a change in the composition of Political Groups.

3.4 The principles of determination are as follows:-

- (a) All the seats are not allocated to the same Group;
- (b) The majority of the seats go to the Group (if any) which has an overall majority on the Council;
- (c) Subject to the above two principles, that the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary Committees allocated to each Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the Full Council.

3.5 The total number of Committee seats on the District Council for allocation is 98. After calculating the proportionality for the two Groups, the Non-Grouped Member, and the 3 vacancies this gives 63 seats to the Labour Group, 24 seats to the Conservative Group, 3 seats to the Non-Grouped Member, and leaves 8 seats vacant, as indicated on the schedule attached at Annexe 'A'.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The rules on political balance are covered by Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and by The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 None.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 Local Government and Housing Act 1989
The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990