

Report of:	Interim Managing Director
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Portfolio Leader:	Leader of the Council
Report Track:	Annual Council: 19/05/21

**Annual Council
19 May 2021
Allocation of Seats to Committees and Other Bodies**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For Council to determine the allocation of seats to different Political Groups duly constituted, to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies, following the District elections held on 6 May 2021 that resulted in the election of 13 ward councillors.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the allocation of seats to the different Political Groups to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be confirmed.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations

Key Issues

- 3.1 Following the District elections held on 6 May 2021 that resulted in the election of 13 ward councillors, it has been necessary to review the allocation of seats to Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies to ensure the allocations are proportionate to the membership of each Political Group.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.2 Council is required to confirm the allocation of seats to the different Political Groups in order that the appointment of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Members to Committees and Other Bodies can be subsequently considered under item 12 of the agenda for today's meeting.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The Council, through its democratic process, supports the Council's Corporate Priorities.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (and further regulation since) requires the Council to allocate seats to the political parties in accordance with the political balance rules. The Council has previously determined that the size of the Council's Committees is fixed at the start of the municipal year and remains fixed for that year. In the event of any changes to party membership or a vacancy occurring during the year, the size of Committees would not change; the only change being the allocation of seats to political parties in accordance with the political balance rules.
- 5.2 Council is required to consider the allocation of seats to the different Political Groups in relation to the Council's Committees and Other Bodies, so as to give effect to, and reflect, so far as reasonably practicable, the political balance of the Members of the Council.
- 5.3 Under agenda item 12 of today's meeting, Council will be asked to consider and confirm the appointment of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Members to Committees and Other Bodies as proposed by each of the Group Leaders in accordance with a political balance calculation previously provided to them.

6 Implications**6.1 Financial**

None.

6.2 Legal

The Council has a duty under Section 15(3) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the Act') to "determine the allocation to the different political groups into which the members of the authority are divided of all the seats which fall to be filled by appointments made from time to time by that authority...".

Sections 15(4) and (5) of the Act place a further duty upon the Council, in performing its obligations under subsection (3) above, to determine the allocation to different political groups of seats on Committees and Other Bodies, so as to give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the following principles:

- (a) That not all the seats are allocated to the same political group.
- (b) That the majority of the seats are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership,
- (c) Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Council as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council; and

- (d) Subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on Committees and Other Bodies as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Risk Management

None.

6.5 Equality & Diversity

None.

6.6 Climate Change

None.

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1: Political balance calculation as at 19 May 2021 (to follow).