

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

17 MAY 2022

POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES TO POLITICAL GROUPS

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider the political composition of the Council and to consider proposals for the allocation of seats on Committees to Political Groups, as required by Council Procedure Rule No. 17.6, given the new governance arrangements.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to consider the political composition of the Council. The Act, together with Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, require local authorities to allocate seats on Committees of a local authority on a proportional basis, in accordance with the number of seats on the Council held by each political group.

2.2 The Council may recall that at their meeting held on 14 December 2021, they granted a further dispensation for Councillor Neal Mitchell for non-attendance at meetings for a six month period due to personal health reasons. I have to inform the Council that unfortunately there has been no change in those personal medical circumstances and Councillor Mitchell therefore submitted his resignation as a District Councillor to me on 6 May 2022.

3.0 Present Position

3.1 Given the resignation of Councillor Mitchell, the seats held by each Group on the Council are now as follows:-

	<u>No. of Seats</u>
Conservative	30
Labour	5
Liberal Democrat	2
Independent	1
<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>1</i>

3.2 Under the proposed new Leader / Executive model of governance only certain Committees are required to reflect the political balance. Based on the proposed new governance arrangements, there are a total of 77 seats on Committees which must comply with political balance rules.

3.3 The new Constitution provides that the following Committees be appointed:-

<u>Committee</u>	<u>No. of Members</u>
Policy & Performance Improvement Committee	15
Planning Committee	15
Licensing Committee	15
General Purposes Committee	15

Audit & Governance Committee	12
Board of Gilstrap Trustees	5
Total	77 seats

Based on these new arrangements the following calculation can be made:-

- a) No of seats on Council = 39 (but the calculations have been made on 38 given the vacancy following the resignation of Councillor Mitchell)

% of total seats held by each Group (rounded) =

	%
Conservative	78.95
Labour	13.16
Liberal Democrats	5.26
Independent	2.63
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- b) The allocation of seats to each Group on these Committees would be:-

			<u>Rounded</u>
Conservative	77 x 78.95%	60.79	61
Labour	77 x 13.16%	10.13	10
Liberal Democrats	77 x 5.26%	4.05	4
Independent	77 x 2.63%	2.03	2
			<hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/> 77 <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/>

- c) The number of seats allocated on Committees to each Political Group is therefore as follows:

Conservative	61
Labour	10
Liberal Democrats	4
Independent	2

3.3 The proposed allocation of seats on Committees to each political group is set out in the matrix which is attached as **Appendix A** to the report.

3.4 Schedules of appointments to Committees have been forwarded to Group Leaders, based on the calculations made.

3.5 The Council may recall that at their last meeting, the membership of the Audit & Governance Committee was increased to 12, with the intention to secure a wider membership as practicable. This does not widen the membership enough to include a Liberal Democrat member, so the Conservative Group have indicated that they will allocate one of their seats to the Liberal Democrat Group.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Council agree the allocation of seats to Political Groups in accordance with Appendix A to the report.

Background Papers

Nil.

For further information please contact Nigel Hill on 01636 655243.

John Robinson
Chief Executive