
POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

Committee: Annual Council

Date: 15 May 2014

Author: Principal Democratic Services Officer

[P2]

1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1 To receive details of the political balance of the Council and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council:

Notes the details of the political balance of the Council as set out in Appendix 1 and approves the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies as set out in Appendix 2 or agrees an alternative (on a Nem Con basis, if necessary).

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is a table showing the allocation of places on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies in accordance with the requirements of the proportionality rules based on the revised Committee structure approved by the Council on 15 April 2014. The table also reflects the current vacancy arising from the death of former Councillor John Palmer.
- 3.2 Group Leaders have been advised of the number of places available on each Committee to be filled by their Groups, and of any necessary adjustments to be made between the political Groups in their overall seat allocations. Appendix 2 is a proposed allocation of places on Committees/Sub-Committees from Group Leaders, reflecting the need for the Liberal Democrat Group to cede one place on a proportionate Committee/Sub-Committee and for the Conservative Group, Independent Group and Vacancy to gain places from the 5 spare places as yet unallocated on each of the 5 main Committees.
- 3.3 At the Annual Council meeting held on 14 May 2013, the Dissolution of the Council's Scrutiny Committee was approved. Similarly, the revised Committee structure does not include a Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.4 Agenda Item 14 deals with the appointments to be made to fill those places on Committees and other Member bodies.

4.0 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989

4.1 Section 15(5) of the Act sets down the principles for the allocation of seats on Committees between the political Groups on the Council. The principles are applied in sequence and provide a safeguard to enable any distortion caused by rounding up or down to be remedied. The principles require, in effect, that:

- (a) all seats are not allocated to the same political Group.
- (b) the majority of seats are allocated to the political Group having a majority of the authority's membership.
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the TOTAL of all committees allocated to a political Group bears the same proportion as the proportion of the seats held on full Council (this principle allows any accumulated distortion caused by rounding up or down in (d) below to be remedied).
- (d) subject to (a) to (c) above, the number of seats on each Committee allocated to a political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on full Council.

4.2 The effect of rounding up or down across the overall number of seats to be allocated on Committees can be quite significant which is why the principles explicitly provide for any distortion to be rectified.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None arising from this report.

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Section 15) Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990	Room 214B The Grange Ely	Tracy Couper Principal Democratic Services Officer (01353) 665555 E-mail: tracy.couper@eastcambs.gov.uk

POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

38 Members aligned to Political Groups

1 unaligned Councillor

38 aligned Members – 62 seats 1 Member = 1.632 seats

APPENDIX 1

PARTY	NO. OF COUNCILLORS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL
Conservative	22	57.895%
Liberal Democrat	10	26.316%
Independent	5	13.158%
Vacancy	1	2.632%
	38	100%

BODY	TOTAL MEMBERS ON BODY	CONSERVATIVE [proportion of seats: 57.895%]		LIBERAL DEMOCRAT [proportion of seats: 26.316%]		INDEPENDENT [proportion of seats: 13.158%]		VACANCY [proportion of seats: 2.632%]	
Full Council	39 (38 & 1 unaligned Cllr)	22	22	10	10	5	5	1	1
Commercial Services	11	6	6.368	3	2.895	1	1.447	0	0.290
Corporate Governance & Finance	11	6	6.368	3	2.895	1	1.447	0	0.290
Regulatory & Support Services	11	6	6.368	3	2.895	1	1.447	0	0.290
Others:									
Licensing	11	6	6.368	3	2.895	1	1.447	0	0.290
Planning	11	6	6.368	3	2.895	1	1.447	0	0.290
Asset Development Sub-Committee	7	4	4.053	2	1.842	1	0.921	0	0.184
Total Seats on ordinary committees under strict proportionality	62	34	35.895	17	16.316	6	8.158	0	1.632
Total Seats when number rounded	62		36 [need to gain 2]		16 [need to cede 1]		8 [need to gain 2]		2 [need to gain 2]

Notes:

As a result of discussions by Group Leaders: the Liberal Democrat Group has agreed to cede one seat on Licensing Committee to the vacancy. The Conservative Group has gained one place on Licensing Committee and one place on Planning Committee; the Independent Group has gained one place on Regulatory and Support Services Committee and one place on Corporate Governance and Finance Committee; and the vacancy has gained one place on Commercial Services Committee, from the 5 spare places unallocated on each of the 5 main Committees.

Proportionality does not apply to Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee. The following allocations were agreed as a result of discussions by Group Leaders for 2013/14:

	Total Members on Body	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee	2	2	0	0

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APPENDIX 2

PARTY	NO. OF COUNCILLORS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL
Conservative	22	57.895%
Liberal Democrat	10	26.316%
Independent	5	13.158%
Vacancy	1	2.632%
	38	100%

BODY	TOTAL MEMBERS ON BODY	CONSERVATIVE [proportion of seats: 57.895%]		LIBERAL DEMOCRAT [proportion of seats: 26.316%]		INDEPENDENT [proportion of seats: 13.158%]		VACANCY [proportion of seats: 2.632%]	
Full Council	39 (38 & 1 unaligned Cllr)	22	22	10	10	5	5	1	1
Commercial Services	11	6	6.368	3	2.895	1	1.447	1	-
Corporate Governance & Finance	11	6	6.368	3	2.895	2	-	0	0.290
Regulatory & Support Services	11	6	6.368	3	2.895	2	-	0	0.290
Others:									
Licensing	11	7	-	2	-	1	1.447	1	-
Planning	11	7	-	3	2.895	1	1.447	0	0.290
Asset Development Sub-Committee	7	4	4.053	2	1.842	1	0.921	0	0.184
Total Seats on ordinary committees	62	36	35.895	16	16.316	8	8.158	2	1.632

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Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee	2	2	0	0