
POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

Committee: Council

Date: 17 July 2014

Author: Principal Democratic Services Officer

[P41]

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 To receive details of the revised political balance of the Council and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees arising from the result of the Soham South By-Election on 19 June 2014.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That Council:

- (a) Notes the details of the revised political balance of the Council as set out in Appendix 1 and approves the allocation of seats on Committees, etc.
- (b) Allocates Members to the vacancies set out in paragraph 3.2.2 of this report, or makes other changes to the membership of Committees, Sub-Committees in accordance with the Proportionality calculations.

3.0 **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Following the death of Independent Councillor John Palmer, a By-Election was held for the vacancy in the Soham South District Ward on 19 June 2014 and Councillor Hamish Ross was elected. Councillor Ross has given notification that he wishes to join the Conservative Group. Attached at Appendix 1 is a table showing the revised allocation of places on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies in accordance with the requirements of the Proportionality rules.

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. The resulting changes can be summarised as follows:

3.2.1 When proportionality was calculated for the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2014, the vacancy due to the death of Cllr Palmer had to be included in the calculation and this was nominally allocated places on Commercial Services and Licensing Committees as a result of discussions between the Group Leaders. The Liberal Democrat Group ceded one place on Licensing Committee to the vacancy; the Conservative Group gained one place on Licensing Committee and

one place on Planning Committee; and the Independent Group gained one place on Regulatory and Support Services Committee and one place on Corporate Governance and Finance Committee.

- 3.2.2 However, under the revised proportionality calculations at Appendix 1, the Independent Group need to gain one place from the Conservative Group and one place from the Liberal Democrat Group. Since the Conservative Group and Liberal Democrat Group cannot both cede a place on Licensing Committee to the Independent Group, probably the most pragmatic option would be for the Liberal Democrat Group to cede a place on Licensing Committee to the Independent Group and for the Conservative Group to cede a place on either Corporate Governance and Finance Committee or Regulatory and Support Services Committee to the Independent Group. When compared to the Committee allocations made at the Annual Council meeting, this would give the Conservative Group a new place on Commercial Services Committee and on either Corporate Governance and Finance Committee or Regulatory and Support Services Committee (depending on which one they cede to the Independent Group) and the Independent Group would lose one place on either Corporate Governance and Finance Committee or Regulatory and Support Services Committee (depending on which one they did not gain from the Conservative Group) but would gain a place on Licensing Committee. Attached at Appendix 2 is a copy of the current list of Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Member Bodies approved at Annual Council on 15 May 2014, to assist Members understanding of the required changes.

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.

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Political Proportionality Table

Appendix 2 - Current list of Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Member Bodies

<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	23	60.526%
Liberal Democrat	10	26.316%
Independent	5	13.158%
	38	100%

BODY	TOTAL MEMBERS ON BODY	CONSERVATIVE [proportion of seats: 60.526%]		LIBERAL DEMOCRAT [proportion of seats: 26.316%]		INDEPENDENT [proportion of seats: 13.158%]	
Full Council	39 (38 & 1 unaligned Cllr)	23	23	10	10	5	5
Commercial Services	11	7	6.658	3	2.895	1	1.447
Corporate Governance & Finance	11	7	6.658	3	2.895	1	1.447
Regulatory & Support Services	11	7	6.658	3	2.895	1	1.447
Others:							
Licensing	11	7	6.658	3	2.895	1	1.447
Planning	11	7	6.658	3	2.895	1	1.447
Asset Development Sub-Committee	7	4	4.237	2	1.842	1	0.921
Total Seats on ordinary committees under strict proportionality	62	39	37.526	17	16.316	6	8.158
Total Seats when number rounded	62		38 [need to cede 1]		16 [need to cede 1]		8 [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 2014/15:

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

COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2014/15

COMMERCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (11) 6:3:1 (and 1 Vacancy) and up to 2 Subs	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (11) 6:3:2 and up to 2 Subs	REGULATORY AND SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE (11) 6:3:2 and up to 2 Subs	LICENSING COMMITTEE (11) 7:2:1 (and 1 Vacancy) and no subs
<u>CONSERVATIVE</u> Lavinia Edwards Lis Every (Vice-Chairman) Elaine Griffin-Singh Richard Hobbs (Chairman) Bill Hunt Tom Kerby <u>Substitutes:</u> Christine Ambrose-Smith James Palmer	<u>CONSERVATIVE</u> David Ambrose-Smith David Brown (Vice-Chairman) Kevin Ellis (Chairman) Chris Morris James Palmer Josh Schumann <u>Substitutes:</u> Allen Alderson Tony Parramint	<u>CONSERVATIVE</u> Allen Alderson Anna Bailey (Chairman) Tony Parramint Charles Roberts (Vice-Chairman) Mike Rouse Sue Willows <u>Substitutes:</u> Tony Cornell James Palmer	<u>CONSERVATIVE</u> Allen Alderson Michael Allan (Chairman) Christine Ambrose Smith Tony Cornell Chris Morris (Vice-Chairman) Tony Parramint Sue Willows <u>Substitutes:</u> none
<u>LIB DEM</u> Sheila Friend-Smith Hazel Williams MBE Pauline Wilson (Spokesperson) <u>Substitutes:</u> Lindsey Harris Neil Morrison	<u>LIB DEM</u> Lorna Dupre Neil Morrison Gareth Wilson (Spokesperson) <u>Substitutes:</u> Jeremy Friend-Smith Robert Stevens	<u>LIB DEM</u> Sue Austen Lorna Dupre Hazel Williams MBE (Spokesperson) <u>Substitutes:</u> Jeremy Friend-Smith Pauline Wilson	<u>LIB DEM</u> Sue Austen (Spokesperson) Lindsey Harris <u>Substitutes:</u> none
<u>INDEPENDENT</u> Tony Goodge (Spokesperson) <u>Substitutes:</u> Derrick Beckett	<u>INDEPENDENT</u> Philip Read Andy Wright (Spokesperson) <u>Substitutes:</u> Derrick Beckett Colin Fordham	<u>INDEPENDENT</u> Derrick Beckett (Spokesperson) Colin Fordham <u>Substitutes:</u> Tony Goodge Andy Wright	<u>INDEPENDENT</u> Andy Wright (Spokesperson) <u>Substitutes:</u> none

COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2014/15

<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE (11) 7:3:1 and up to 2 Subs</p>	<p>ASSET DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (7) 4:2:1 and up to 2 Subs from Membership of Commercial Services Committee</p>	<p>PERSONNEL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (3) 2:1:0</p>	<p>ANGLIAN REVENUES PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE (2) 2:0:0 and 2 Subs</p>
<p><u>CONSERVATIVE</u> David Ambrose-Smith David Brown Lavinia Edwards Lis Every Tom Hunt Mike Rouse (Vice-Chairman) Josh Schumann (Chairman)</p> <p><u>Substitutes:</u> Bill Hunt Sue Willows</p>	<p><u>CONSERVATIVE</u> Lis Every Elaine Griffin-Singh (Vice-Chairman) Bill Hunt (Chairman) Richard Hobbs [4/7/14]</p> <p><u>Substitutes:</u></p>	<p><u>CONSERVATIVE</u> Anna Bailey Charles Roberts</p>	<p><u>CONSERVATIVE</u> David Ambrose Smith Lis Every</p> <p><u>Substitutes:</u></p>
<p><u>LIB DEM</u> Jeremy Friend-Smith Robert Stevens (Spokesperson) Gareth Wilson</p> <p><u>Substitutes:</u> Sue Austen Sheila Friend-Smith</p>	<p><u>LIB DEM</u> Sheila Friend-Smith (Spokesperson) Pauline Wilson</p> <p><u>Substitutes:</u></p>	<p><u>LIB DEM</u> Jeremy Friend-Smith</p>	<p><u>LIB DEM</u> None</p> <p><u>Substitutes:</u></p>
<p><u>INDEPENDENT</u> Derrick Beckett (Spokesperson)</p> <p><u>Substitutes:</u> Tony Goodge</p>	<p><u>INDEPENDENT</u> Tony Goodge (Spokesperson)</p> <p><u>Substitutes:</u></p>	<p><u>INDEPENDENT</u></p>	<p><u>INDEPENDENT</u> None</p> <p><u>Substitutes:</u></p>