
POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

Committee: Annual Council

Date: 28 May 2015

Author: Principal Democratic Services Officer

[Q2]

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(S)

- 2.1 That Asset Development be made a full Committee with its existing number of 7 Members, the number of Members required to 'Call-in' a Policy Committee/Sub-Committee decision be revised from 5 to 3, and that the Principal Solicitor and Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution.
- 2.2 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 (requiring a Nem Con vote).

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. Under Section 15(5)(a) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (see below), all seats on a Committee/Sub-Committee cannot be allocated to the same Political Group. This means that since the Council now has only two constituted Political Groups (the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups), the Liberal Democrat Group must have one seat on each Committee/Sub-Committee.
- 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. At a meeting between Group Leaders/Deputies and the Independent unaligned Councillor (Councillor Beckett) on 13 May 2015, it was proposed that Asset Development be made a full Committee with its existing number of 7 Members and that, in view of the revised composition of the Council, the number of Members required to 'Call-in' a Policy Committee/Sub-Committee decision be revised from 5 to 3. This would assist effective scrutiny by enabling the 3 opposition Members to exercise the right of Call-in.

- 3.3 In addition, the Conservative Group Leader has provided a seat from the Conservative Group allocation on Planning Committee, Corporate Governance and Finance Committee and CG&F Hearings Sub-Committee to accommodate Councillor Beckett as the only Independent unaligned Councillor. This will require a Nem Con vote as an alternative arrangement to the proportionality calculations. Therefore, Appendix 2 is the proposed allocation of places on Committees/Sub-Committees from Group Leaders.
- 3.4 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 approved by the Council on 15 April 2014 does not include a Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.5 Agenda Item 15 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

APPENDIX 1

POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

38 Members aligned to Political Groups

1 Independent (unaligned Councillor)

38 aligned Members – 69 seats 1 Member = 1.816 seats

PARTY	NO. OF COUNCILLORS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL			
Conservative	36	94.737%			
Liberal Democrat	2	5.263%			
	38	100%			
BODY	TOTAL MEMBERS ON BODY	CONSERVATIVE [proportion of seats: 94.737%]		LIBERAL DEMOCRAT [proportion of seats: 5.263%]	
Full Council	39 (38 & 1 unaligned Cllr)	36	36	2	2
Commercial Services	11	10	10.421	1	0.579
Corporate Governance & Finance	11	10	10.421	1	0.579
Regulatory & Support Services	11	10	10.421	1	0.579
Asset Development	7	6	(6.632)	1	(0.368)
Others:					
Licensing	11	10	10.421	1	0.579
Planning	11	10	10.421	1	0.579
Corporate Governance & Finance Hearings Sub-Committee	7	6	(6.632)	1	(0.368)
Total Seats on ordinary committees under strict proportionality	69	62	(65.369)	7	(3.632)
Total Seats	69	62		7	

Notes:

As a result of discussions by Group Leaders: the Conservative Group Leader has provided a seat from the Conservative Group allocation on Planning Committee, Corporate Governance and Finance Committee and CG&F Hearings Sub-Committee to accommodate Councillor Beckett as the only Independent unaligned Councillor. This will require a Nem Con vote as an alternative arrangement to the proportionality calculations.

Proportionality does not apply to Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee and previously it has been agreed by a Nem Con vote that proportionality should not be applied to Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee. The following allocations were agreed as a result of discussions by Group Leaders for 2015/16:

	Total Members on Body	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee	2	2	0	0
Personnel Appeals Sub- Committee	3	2	1	0

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APPENDIX 2

PARTY	NO. OF COUNCILLORS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL
Conservative	36	94.737%
Liberal Democrat	2	5.263%
	38	100%

BODY	TOTAL MEMBERS ON BODY	CONSERVATIVE [proportion of seats: 94.737%]		LIBERAL DEMOCRAT [proportion of seats: 5.263%]		INDEPENDENT (unaligned Cllr)	
Full Council	39 (38 & 1 unaligned Cllr)	36	36	2	2	1	1
Commercial Services	11	10	10.421	1	0.579	0	0
Corporate Governance & Finance	11	9	(10.421)	1	0.579	1	0
Regulatory & Support Services	11	10	10.421	1	0.579	0	0
Asset Development	7	6	(6.632)	1	(0.368)	0	0
Others:							
Licensing	11	10	10.421	1	0.579	0	0
Planning	11	9	(10.421)	1	0.579	1	0
Corporate Governance & Finance Hearings Sub-Committee	7	5	(6.632)	1	(0.368)	1	0
Total Seats on ordinary committees under strict proportionality	69	62	(65.369)	7	(3.632)	-	-
Total Seats	69	59		7		3	

Notes:

As a result of discussions by Group Leaders: the Conservative Group Leader has provided a seat from the Conservative Group allocation on Planning Committee, Corporate Governance and Finance Committee and CG&F Hearings Sub-Committee to accommodate Councillor Beckett as the only Independent unaligned Councillor. This will require a Nem Con vote as an alternative arrangement to the proportionality calculations.

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	Total Members on Body	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee	2	2	0	0
Personnel Appeals Sub- Committee	3	2	1	0