



Council 19 May 2011

Review of Political Balance and Appointment of Committees, Sub-Committee and Working Party

1. Background

1.1 Following the elections on 5 May 2011 the political balance of the Council is as indicated in the following table:-

	CON	INDEPENDENT	LABOUR
Members	38	4	3
Expressed as %	84.44%	8.89%	6.67%

1.2 The Council will need to formally approve the formula for the allocation of seats to the political groups on those Committees which are required by law to be politically balanced.

Seats Available	Committee	CON		INDEPENDENT		LABOUR	
		Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places
16	Development Control	13.51	14	1.42	1	1.07	1
13	Licensing & Regulatory	10.97	11	1.16	1	0.87	1
7	Officer Appointments	5.91	6	0.62	1	0.47	-
16	Overview & Scrutiny	13.51	14	1.42	1	1.07	1
10	Performance & Audit Scrutiny	8.44	8	0.89	1	0.67	1
7	Staffing Appeals	5.91	6	0.62	1	0.47	-
Total 69			59	plus	6	plus	4
Exact overall entitlement based on the overall percentage on full Council (1.1)		58.27		6.13		4.60	

- 1.3 The Democratic Renewal Working Party is not required to be politically balanced but the allocation of seats is, by custom and practice, undertaken on this basis. The allocation of seats according to the formula is as follows:-

Seats Available	Committee	CON		INDEPENDENT		LABOUR	
		Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places
7	Democratic Renewal Working Party	5.91	6	0.62	1	0.47	-
7			6		1		-
ENTITLEMENT			5.91		0.62		0.47

- 1.4 The Standards Committee comprises:-

- (a) three Borough Councillors;
- (b) three Independent Members (people who are not Councillors or officers of the Council or any other body having a Standards Committee); and
- (c) three members of parish/town Councils wholly or mainly in the Council's area (Parish Members).

- 1.5 In 2010/2011 the Borough Council's representation on the Standards Committee comprised one Member from each of the Conservative, Labour and Independent Groups.

- 1.6 The Council's Constitution states that the Mayoral Advisory Committee shall comprise 7 Members of the Authority appointed annually by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in accordance with the nominations of Group Leaders. The composition of the Committee shall reflect the political group representation on the Council. The Committee should, therefore, comprise 6 Conservative Members and an Independent Member.

- 1.7 There is a need to appoint the 3 Members of the Treasury Management Sub-Committee before a meeting of its 'parent' body, the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee has met. Therefore the Council is requested to approve that delegated authority be given to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with Group Leaders and the Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, to appoint 3 Members of the Committee to the Treasury Management Sub-Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that:-

- (1) the allocation of seats on the Committees of the political groups of the Borough Council as indicated in paragraph 1.2 of Report C1 be approved;
- (2) the allocation of seats on the Democratic Renewal Working Party of the political groups of the Borough Council, as indicated in paragraph 1.3 of Report C1 be approved;
- (3) the allocation of seats on the Standards Committee as indicated in paragraph 1.4 of Report C1 be approved;

- (4) the allocation of seats on the Mayoral Advisory Committee as indicated in paragraph 1.6 of Report C1 be approved;
- (5) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated authority to appoint Members and substitute Members of these Committees and Democratic Renewal Working Party in (1), (2), (3) and (4) above on the basis of nominations from the relevant Group Leaders; and
- (6) The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated authority to appoint 3 Members of the Audit Scrutiny Committee to the Treasury Management Sub-Committee in consultation with Group Leaders and the Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

For further information please contact:-

Steven Lincoln, Committee Services Manager,
Telephone: (01284) 757108 or email: steven.lincoln@stedsbc.gov.uk

W:\Democratic WP Services\Committee\Reports\Council\2011\11.05.19\C1 Review of Political Balance & Appointment of Committees, Sub-Committee & Working Party.doc