



Council 16 May 2013

Review of Political Balance and Re-appointment to Politically Balanced Bodies

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is required by the Constitution to review the political balance and allocation of seats to committees each year at the Annual Meeting in May.

2. Political Composition

- 2.1 The political composition of the Council is as indicated in the following table:

	CON	IND	LAB	IND	IND	GREEN
Members	36	3	3	1	1	1
Expressed as %	80.00%	6.67%	6.67%	2.22%	2.22%	2.22%

- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The obligation to ensure that there is proportionality in the political composition of the Council's committees extends only to proportionate representation of members of political groups, and does not require non-grouped members to be proportionally represented. Seats therefore need to be allocated only to groups.
- 2.4 In carrying out any review the Council is obliged to adopt the following principles and to give effect to them 'so far as is reasonably practicable':
- (a) That not all seats on the Council are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) That the majority of the seats on the Council are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - (c) Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Council which are allocated to each political group, have the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority

as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority, and;

- (d) Subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the Council which are allocated to each group have the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Council as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.

3. Entitlement to Places

- 3.4 The table below shows both the exact entitlement to places and the places **currently** held by each group and non-group members.

Seats	Committee	CON-SERVATIVE		INDEPENDENT GROUP		LABOUR		IND 1 PH		IND 2 GC		GREEN	
		Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places
16	Development Control	12.8 (13)	13	1.07 (1)	1	1.07 (1)	1	0.35 (0)	-	0.35 (0)	-	0.35 (0)	1
13	Licensing & Regulatory	10.4 (10)	11	0.87 (1)	1	0.87 (1)	1	0.29 (0)	-	0.29 (0)	-	0.29 (0)	-
3	Joint Officer Appointments	2.4 (2)	3	0.2 (0)	-	0.2 (0)	-	0.07 (0)	-	0.07 (0)	-	0.07 (0)	-
16	Overview & Scrutiny	12.8 (13)	13	1.07 (1)	1	1.07 (1)	1	0.35 (0)	1	0.35 (0)	-	0.35 (0)	-
10	Performance & Audit Scrutiny	8.0 (8)	7	0.67 (1)	1	0.67 (1)	1	0.22 (0)	-	0.22 (0)	1	0.22 (0)	-
7	Staffing Appeals	5.6 (6)	6	0.47 (0)	-	0.47 (0)	1	0.15 (0)	-	0.15 (0)	-	0.15 (0)	-
Total 65		52 (52)	53	4.35 (4)	4	4.35 (4)	5	1.43 (1)	1	1.43 (1)	1	1.43 (1)	1

4. Democratic Renewal Working Party

- 4.1 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 Working Party should, therefore, comprise 6 Conservative members and one non-Conservative member. The allocation of seats is **currently** as follows:

Seats	Committee	CON-SERVATIVE		INDEPENDENT GROUP		LABOUR		IND 1 PH		IND 2 GC		GREEN	
		Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places
7	Democratic Renewal	5.6 (6)	6	0.47 (0)	1	0.47 (0)	-	0.15 (0)	-	0.15 (0)	-	0.15 (0)	-

5. Standards Committee

- 5.1 Full Council on 26 February 2013 resolved to establish a Joint Standards Committee with Forest Heath District Council, to comprise three Members from each authority. Arrangements for appointments to the Joint Standards Committee are to be made without compliance with the political balance requirements in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and will be made in consultation with Group Leaders.

6. Mayoral Advisory Committee

- 6.1 The Council's Constitution states that the Mayoral Advisory Committee shall comprise seven 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 six Conservative Members and one non-Conservative Member. The allocation of seats is **currently** as follows:

Seats	Committee	CON-SERVATIVE		INDEPEND ENT GROUP		LABOUR		IND 1 PH		IND 2 GC		GREEN	
		Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places
7	Democratic Renewal	5.6 (6)	6	0.47 (0)	1	0.47 (0)	-	0.15 (0)	-	0.15 (0)	-	0.15 (0)	-

7. Treasury Management Sub-Committee

- 7.1 The Treasury Management Sub-Committee is a sub-committee of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee and the composition of the Sub-Committee must reflect the political group representation on the Council. The Sub-Committee should, therefore, comprise 2 Conservative Members and one non-Conservative Member. The allocation of seats is **currently** as follows: -

Seats	Committee	CON-SERVATIVE		INDEPEND ENT GROUP		LABOUR		IND 1 PH		IND 2 GC		GREEN	
		Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places	Exact Fig	Actual Places
7	Treasury Management	2.4 (2)	2	0.2 (0)	1	0.2 (0)	-	0.07 (0)	-	0.07 (0)	-	0.07 (0)	-

8. Recommendations

8.1 It is **RECOMMENDED**: That

- (1) the formula for the allocation of seats to the political groups on those Committees which are required by law to be politically balanced, as set out in paragraph 2.1 of Report E1, be approved;
- (2) the allocation of seats on the Committees which are required by law to be politically balanced of the political groups and non-grouped Members of the Council, as indicated in Section 3.4 of Report E1, be reviewed by the Council and amended if required, whilst maintaining the political balance requirements and entitlements to seats set out in Section 2 of Report E1;
- (3) the situation with regard to the Joint Standards Committee be noted;
- (4) the allocation of seats on the Democratic Renewal Working Party, as indicated in Section 4 of Report E1, be reviewed by the Council and amended if required, whilst maintaining the political balance requirement of six Conservative and one "other" Members;
- (5) the allocation of seats on the Mayoral Advisory Committee, as indicated in Section 6 of Report E1, be reviewed by the Council and amended if required, whilst maintaining the political balance requirement of six Conservative and one "other" Members;
- (6) the allocation of seats on the Treasury Management Sub-Committee, as indicated in Section 7 of Report E1, be reviewed by the Council and amended if required, whilst maintaining the political balance requirement of two Conservative and one "other" Members;
- (7) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated authority to appoint Members and substitute Members to those bodies set out in recommendations (2), (4), (5) and (6) above on the basis of nominations from the relevant Group Leaders.