

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To agree the revised allocation of committee seats following a recent change in political group membership to ensure political proportionality.

**Information and Advice**

2. The County Council is under a duty to review the allocation of seats to political groups where there is a change to the membership of political groups. As reported earlier, Councillor Ian Campbell has resigned from the Labour Group.
3. The membership of the County Council is therefore now as follows: -

Labour Group	33
Conservative Group	21
Liberal Democrat Group	8
Independent Group	3
Non Aligned Members	2
Total	67

4. In determining the membership of committees, account must be taken of the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The legislation requires that seats on committees and sub-committees are allocated in a way which reflects the overall balance on the Council.
5. There are four principles which apply to ensure political balance: -
  - a. All seats on one single committee cannot be allocated to the same political group
  - b. If a group has an overall majority on Council they must have an overall majority on every committee
  - c. Subject to a and b, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all the committees taken together must be proportionate to their strength on Council. There are 241 seats on all of the ordinary committees of Council and the proportions for each group are therefore as follows:

		Labour	Conservative	Liberal	Independent	Non-aligned Independent	Non-aligned Independent
No of Seats on Council	67	33	21	8	3	1	1
Percentage %	100	49.25	31.34	11.94	4.48	1.49	1.49
Seats On Committees rounded to 2 decimal points	241	118.70	75.54	28.78	10.79	3.60	3.60

- d. Subject to a, b and c, each political party must be allocated that number of seats on each committee taken individually as is proportionate to their strength on Council
6. Clearly it is not possible to allocate seats in the exact percentages as set out above but it is a duty to comply with these principles as closely as is reasonably practical. A rounding exercise is undertaken so that seats are allocated to the closest round numbers. Any seats left unallocated after rounding must then be distributed to ensure that all groups achieve their overall proportion as far as is practically possible. The detailed allocation of seats will be circulated as soon as possible following discussions with elected members.
7. Appropriate checks have also been made regarding the members nominated by the Council to sit on the Fire and Rescue Authority; however no changes are required to the current arrangements to meet the requirements of political balance.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. It is possible to allocate the discretionary allocation of seats in a number of different permutations but any allocation must still meet the principles set out in paragraph 5 above as far as is practical.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

9. To meet the Council's duty to review the allocation of seats to political groups on a change in political group membership, in order to ensure seat allocation is made in accordance with the principles of proportionality prescribed by law.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) To approve the allocation of committee seats.

**Mick Burrows**  
**Chief Executive**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments (HD – 09/09/2014)**

11. Council is the only body authorised to determine the allocation of seats on Committees of Council.

**Financial Comments (NS – 09/09/2014)**

12. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All