

5. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES: REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

Report of the Monitoring Officer

- 1 The distribution of seats on Committees is governed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, which require the allocation to accord with the rules on proportionality. It is incumbent on the County Council to satisfy itself each year that the rules on proportionality continue to be properly applied.
- 2 Members may recall that the Regulations state that seats on Committees must be allocated to each political group in the same proportion to the number of seats held by each of those groups on the County Council (rules of aggregation as well as being in the correct proportions on each Committee individually, in so far as this may be practicable).
- 3 Subsequent to the last proportionality review, Mr P Irwin has left the UKIP & Independent Group and joining the Conservative Group. In addition, Mr P Gomm and Mr D Hayday have left the UKIP & Independent Group (now known as the UKIP Group) and formed The Independent Group. The political balance of the Council is now 37 Conservatives, 4 Liberal Democrats, 4 UKIP, 2 Independents, 1 East Wycombe Independent and 1 Labour. There are four political groups comprising 37 (The Conservative Group), 6 (The Liberal Democrats, Independent and Buckingham Labour Group), 4 (The UKIP Group) and 2 (The Independent Group). From these figures is derived the entitlement to seats on Committees as shown in the following table.

Table 1 – Overall Group allocation to Seats

Political Group	Seats on Council	% of whole	Entitlement to seats actual	Entitlement to seats rounded
Conservative	37	75.5%	56.63	57
Liberal Democrat, East Wycombe Independent & Buckingham Labour	6	12.2%	9.15	9
UKIP	4	8.2%	6.15	6
Independent	2	4.1%	3.08	3
Total	49	100%	75	75

The table below shows the normal distribution of the 75 seats on Committees.

Table 2 – Initial calculations before adjustments

Committee	Size	Conservative	Lib Dems, East Wycombe Independent & Buckingham Labour	UKIP	The Independent Group
Development Control	8	6.04 (6)	0.98 (1)	0.66 (1)	0.33 (0)
Pension Fund	6	4.53 (5)	0.73 (1)	0.49 (0)	0.25 (0)
Regulatory & Audit	8	6.04 (6)	0.98 (1)	0.66 (1)	0.33 (0)
Rights of Way	8	6.04 (6)	0.98 (1)	0.66 (1)	0.33 (0)
Senior Appointments	7	5.29 (5)	0.85 (1)	0.57 (1)	0.29(0)
Select – Education	11	8.31 (8)	1.34 (1)	0.90 (1)	0.45 (1)*
Select - Health	11	8.31 (8)	1.34 (1)	0.90 (1)	0.45 (1)*
Select - Finance	8	6.04 (6)	0.98 (1)	0.66 (1)	0.33 (0)
Select - Environment	8	6.04 (6)	0.98 (1)	0.66 (1)	0.33 (0)
Total	75	56(57)	9	8(6)	2(3)

** Strict rounding results in a remainder of one for the 'size 11' Committees. The largest fractional part belongs to the Independent Group so this remainder has been allocated to that group.*

The numbers in parentheses above indicate the entitlement to seats. The distribution resulted in an over-allocation of 2 seats to the UKIP Group therefore this has been adjusted to ensure overall proportions apply.

Following the agreement of all political groups the final allocations proposed are listed below.

Table 3 – Final allocations of Seats

Committee	Size	Conservative	Lib Dems, East Wycombe Independent & Buckingham Labour	UKIP	The Independent Group
Development Control	8	6	1	1	0
Pension Fund	6	5	1	0	0
Regulatory & Audit	8	6	1	1	0
Rights of Way	8	6	1	1	0
Senior Appointments	7	5	1	1	0
Select – Education	11	9	1	0	1
Select - Health	11	8	1	1	1
Select - Finance	8	6	1	1	0
Select - Environment	8	6	1	0	1
Total	75	57	9	6	3

Other Council Committees

- 4 There are currently no other Council Committees where proportionality applies. If a new Council Committee is created and proportionality applies, it will be applied on the basis as

set out in Appendix 1.

Buckinghamshire Fire Authority

- 5 The County Council has 12 places on the Fire Authority which, applying the rules on proportionality, results in the following distribution of seats across the groups.

Table 4

Committee	Size	Conservative	Lib Dems, East Wycombe Independent & Buckingham Labour	UKIP	The Independent Group
Fire Authority	12	9 (9.06)	1 (1.46)	1 (0.98)	1 (0.49)

Strict rounding results in a remainder of one seat. The largest fractional part belongs to the Independent Group so this remainder has been allocated to that group.

Other Member Bodies

- 6 It is the current policy of the County Council that notwithstanding that the rules of proportionality do not apply to non decision making bodies, all member bodies should be appointed on a proportional basis whenever reasonably practicable. At its last meeting the Council agreed that it would wish this policy to be continued.

Recommendation

That the distribution of seats across Committees be as set out in Table 3 and Table 4, to accord with the rules on proportionality. This will come into effect immediately following the close of the full Council meeting.

**SARAH ASHMEAD
MONITORING OFFICER**

APPENDIX 1

Size	Conservative	Lib Dems, East Wycombe Independent & Buckingham Labour	UKIP	The Independent Group
No of Seats	37	6	4	2
1	1	0	0	0
2	2	0	0	0
3	2	0(1)	0	0
4	3	0(1)	0	0
5	4	1	0	0
6	5	1	0	0
7	5	1	1	0
8	6	1	1	0
9	7	1	1	0
10	8	1	1	0
11	8	1	1	0(1)
12	9	1	1	0(1)

Note: The figures in parentheses indicate that strict rounding has resulted in a remainder. This remainder has been allocated to the Group with the largest fractional part.