



Report on Committee Proportionality

Thursday 21 September 2017

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Political Proportionality

This report sets out the allocation of Committee seats in line with legal requirements on political proportionality. Appendix 1 sets out the seat allocations by political groups for 2017/18.

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 that the rules on proportionality continue to be properly applied.

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).

The political balance of the Council is 41 Conservatives, 4 Liberal Democrats, 2 East Wycombe Independents, 1 Independent and 1 Labour.

Subsequent to the last proportionality review in May 2017, Cllr Majid Hussain has joined the Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independents, Labour and Independent Group. There are two political groups now comprising 41 (The Conservative Group) and 8 (The Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independents, Labour and Independent Group) Members.

Following the agreement of all political groups the final allocations proposed are listed below (Appendix 1 sets out the background calculations).

Table 1

Political Group	Seats on Council	% of whole	Seats actual	Seats rounded
Conservative	41	83.7%	62.76	63
Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independents, Labour and Independent	8	16.3%	12.24	12
Total	49	100%	75	75

Table 2: Final allocations of Seats

Committee	Size	Conservative	Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independents, Labour and Independent
Development Control	8	7	1
Pension Fund	6	5	1
Regulatory & Audit	8	7	1
Rights of Way	8	7	1
Senior Appointments and Bucks Pay Award	7	6	1
Select – Children’s Social Care & Learning	11	9	2
Select – Health & Adult Social Care	11	9 (8)	2 (3)
Select – Finance, Performance & Resources	8	7	1
Select – Transport, Environment & Communities	8	7	1
Total	75	64* (63)	11* (12)

* Conservatives have an over-allocation of one seat which should go to the opposition group

Other Council Committees

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

The County Council has 11 places on the Fire Authority which, applying the rules on proportionality, results in the following distribution of seats across the groups.

Table 3: Fire Authority Seats

Committee	Size	Conservative	Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independents, Labour and Independent
Fire Authority	11	9	2

Other Member Bodies

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.

Recommendations

Council is asked to:

Confirm that the political balance in the distribution of seats across Committees be as set out in Tables 1 and 2, to accord with the rules on proportionality.

**SARAH ASHMEAD
MONITORING OFFICER**

Appendix 1 – Background Calculations on the Allocation of Committee Seats

Table 4

Size	Conservative	Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independents, Labour and Independent
No of Seats	41	8
1	1	0
2	2	0
3	3	0
4	3	1
5	4	1
6	5	1
7	6	1
8	7	1
9	8	1
10	8	2
11	9	2
12	10	2
13	11	2
14	12	2
15	13	2
16	13	3

Table 5 – Initial calculations before adjustments

Committee	Size	Conservative	Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independents, Labour and Independent
Development Control	8	6.69 (7)	1.31 (1)
Pension Fund	6	5.02 (5)	0.98 (1)
Regulatory & Audit	8	6.69 (7)	1.31 (1)
Rights of Way	8	6.69 (7)	1.31 (1)
Senior Appointments	7	5.86 (6)	1.14 (1)
Select – Children's Social Care & Learning	11	9.20 (9)	1.80 (2)
Select – Health, Adult Social Care	11	9.20 (9)	1.80 (2)
Select – Finance, Performance & Resources	8	6.69 (7)	1.31 (1)
Select – Transport, Environment & Communities	8	6.69 (7)	1.31 (1)
Total	75	64*	11*

* The Conservative seat entitlement from Table 1 is 63, therefore one seat should be re-allocated to the opposition group.