



Report on Committee Proportionality

Thursday 25 April 2019

Report of the Monitoring Officer

NOTE: THIS IS A REVISED REPORT AND REPLACES THE ORIGINAL REPORT IN THE BLUEBOOK

Political Proportionality

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

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. Since the last Council meeting in February 2019, Janet Blake has left the Conservative Group and stands as an ungrouped Independent Conservative. Additionally, Darren Hayday has re-joined the Opposition Group.

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 currently 39 Conservatives, 4 Liberal Democrats, 2 Independents, 1 East Wycombe Independent, 2 Independent Conservatives and 1 Labour. There are two political groups comprising 40 (The Conservative Group) and 7 (The Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent, Labour and Independent Group) Members. There are 2 ungrouped 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 | 40 | 81.6% | 61.22 | 61 |
| Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent, Labour and Independent | 7 | 14.3% | 10.71 | 11 |
| Ungrouped | 2 | | | 3 |
| Total | 49 | | 75 | 75 |

Table 2: Final allocations of Seats

| Committee | Size | Conservative | Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent, Labour and Independent | Remainder |
|---|-----------|-----------------|--|---------------|
| Development Control | 8 | 6 (7)* | 1 | 1 (0)* |
| Pension Fund | 6 | 5 | 1 | |
| Regulatory & Audit | 8 | 6 (7)* | 1 | 1 (0)* |
| Rights of Way | 8 | 7 | 1 | |
| Senior Appointments and Bucks Pay Award | 7 | 6 | 1 | |
| Select – Children's | 11 | 9 | 2 | |
| Select – Health & Adult Social Care | 11 | 8 (9)* | 2 | 1 (0)* |
| Select – Finance, Performance & Resources | 8 | 7 | 1 | |
| Select – Transport, Environment & Communities | 8 | 7 | 1 | |
| Total | 75 | 61 (64)* | 11 | 3 (0)* |

- * The Conservatives have an over-allocation of 3 seats due to the reduced allocation for the Conservative Group on this committee. These seats should go to an ungrouped member.

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 Independent, Labour and Independent | Remainder |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 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 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 Political Balance

Appendix 1 – Background Calculations on the Allocation of Committee Seats

Table 4

| Size | Conservative | Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent, Labour and Independent | Remainder |
|--------------------|--------------|---|-----------|
| No of Seats | 40 | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | |
| 6 | 5 | 1 | |
| 7 | 6 | 1 | |
| 8 | 7 | 1 | |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | 9 | 2 | |
| 12 | 10 | 2 | |
| 13 | 11 | 2 | |
| 14 | 11 | 2 | 1 |
| 15 | 12 | 2 | 1 |
| 16 | 13 | 2 | 1 |

Table 5 – Initial calculations before adjustments

| Committee | Size | Conservative | Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent, Labour and Independent | Remainder |
|--|-----------|--------------|---|-----------|
| Development Control | 8 | 6.53 (7) | 1.14 (1) | |
| Pension Fund | 6 | 4.90 (5) | 0.86 (1) | |
| Regulatory & Audit | 8 | 6.53 (7) | 1.14 (1) | |
| Rights of Way | 8 | 6.53 (7) | 1.14 (1) | |
| Senior Appointments | 7 | 5.71 (6) | 1.00 (1) | |
| Select – Children's | 11 | 8.98 (9) | 1.57 (2) | |
| Select – Health, Adult Social Care | 11 | 8.98 (9) | 1.57 (2) | |
| Select – Finance, Performance & Resources | 8 | 6.53 (7) | 1.14 (1) | |
| Select – Transport, Environment & Communities | 8 | 6.53 (7) | 1.14 (1) | |
| Total | 75 | 64* | 11 | 0* |

* The Conservative seat entitlement from Table 1 is 61, therefore 3 seats should be re-allocated to an ungrouped member.