

**CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 13 MAY 2014**

POLITICAL BALANCE

Contact Officer: Lesley Blue (01494 732010)

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council's political balance be noted.

Background

- 1 There has been no change to the Council's political balance since May 2013. The Council's political balance remains:
 - Conservatives – 31 seats
 - Liberal Democrat – 5 seats
- 2 There are two separate Independent Members, one Labour Councillor, and one UKIP Councillor. However, a political group requires a minimum of two Members.
- 3 As such, the total number of seats to be allocated to the Conservative group remains 77.5%; with the Liberal Democrat allocated 12.5%. The Council is required to allocate seats based on these proportions. The number of seats to be allocated is 129.

Political Balance

- 4 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires seats to be allocated on ordinary Committees and Sub-Committees (where appropriate) in accordance with the following principles:-

First Principle

'Not all seats are allocated to the same Political Group'

- 5 This means that all ordinary Committees and Sub-Committees must consist of Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

Second Principle

'The majority of seats are to be allocated to the Majority Political Group'

- 6 This means that the majority of seats on ordinary Committees and Sub-Committees are to be allocated to the Conservative Group. It also means a clear majority in practice – without the use of a second vote.

Third Principle

‘Subject to the First and Second Principles, the total number of seats each political group has on all ordinary committees shall be in proportion to the proportion of seats that it has on full Council’

- 7 This means that for each politically balanced Committee, the Conservatives are entitled to 77.5% of the seats and the Liberal Democrats are entitled to 12.5%. The table below details the entitlement of both Political Groups corresponding to the total number of seats available on a Committee.

Committee Seats	Conservative Seats	Lib Dem Seats
15	11.63	1.88
14	10.85	1.75
13	10.08	1.63
12	9.30	1.50
11	8.53	1.38
10	7.75	1.25
9	6.98	1.13
8	6.20	1.00
7	5.43	0.88
6	4.65	0.75
5	3.88	0.63
4	3.10	0.50
3	2.33	0.38

- 8 Seats left over after the Political Groups have taken their proportional allocation are allocated by default, and not as of right, to Members who are not members of a Political Group.

Fourth Principle

‘Subject to the First, Second and Third Principles, each political group shall have the same proportion of seats as it holds on the council as a whole’

- 9 This means that subject to the other principles, the total seats that each Political Group has shall correspond to the total seats on Full Council.

The **Appendix** shows the proposed allocation of seats for both the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrat Group and the proposed allocation of seats to Members who are not members of a Political Group, including the Seats allocated in 2013/14 as a comparison.