

**CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING – 4 NOVEMBER 2014**

---

---

**CHANGE TO POLITICAL BALANCE**

*Contact Officer: Lesley Blue (01494 732010)*

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the revised political balance be noted and that the membership of the Council's Committees be amended accordingly.**

**Background**

- 1 Members are asked to note the Council's revised political balance arising from Councillor H Trevette suspension from the Conservative Group:
  - Conservatives – 30 seats (from 31)
  - Liberal Democrat – 5 seats (unchanged)
- 2 There are now three separate Independent Members (an increase of one), 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 is now 77% (from 77.5%). The Liberal Democrat allocation remains unchanged at 12.5%. The Council is required to allocate seats based on these proportions. The total number of seats to be allocated is 108.

**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% 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.

<b>Committee Seats</b>	<b>Conservative Seats</b>	<b>Lib Dem Seats</b>
15	11.25	1.88
14	10.50	1.75
13	9.75	1.63
12	9.00	1.50
11	8.25	1.38
10	7.50	1.25
9	6.75	1.13
8	6.00	1.00
7	5.25	0.88
6	4.50	0.75
5	3.75	0.63
4	3.00	0.50
3	2.25	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.
- 9 Essentially the Conservative Group lose two seats on Committees as a result of the change to political balance.

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’**

- 10 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.

- 11 It should be noted that the change to political balance requires the Council to agree appointments to the following Committees:

**Licensing & Regulation Committee**

There is a vacancy on the Licensing & Regulation Committee for one Conservative Member.

**Appeals & Complaints Committee**

The Conservatives loose one seat on this Committee. This leaves a vacancy on the Committee for one Member who is not a Conservative or Liberal Democrat. This vacancy can only be filled by one of the following Councillors: Berry, Bhatti, Meacock or Trevette.

**Governance & Electoral Arrangements Committee**

The Conservatives loose one seat on this Committee. This leaves a vacancy on the Committee for one Member who is not a Conservative or Liberal Democrat. This vacancy can only be filled by one of the following Councillors: Berry, Lacey, Meacock or Trevette.