
ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council is invited to agree the allocation of seats to Committees following a change in the political composition.

2 DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The Council has a statutory duty by virtue of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to ensure that appointments to Committees reflect the proportion of the total number of seats on the Council held by each political group, unless otherwise agreed.
- 2.2 Following a recent change in the political composition, the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services has re-calculated the allocation of seats in accordance with the Act, which sets down the following criteria that must be followed when appointing Members to Committees:-
- (1) That not all the seats are held by Members of the same political group.
 - (2) That, if a political group has a majority of the membership of the Council, then that group has the majority of the seats.
 - (3) That, subject to principles (1) and (2) above, the total number of seats each political group has on all ordinary Committees is in proportion to that group's share of the total Council elected membership.
 - (4) That, subject to principles (1) (2) and (3) above, each political group has the same proportion of seats as it holds on the Council as a whole.
- 2.3 The current composition of the Council is as follows:-
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Conservative | 25 |
| Green and Rochford District Residents | 7 |
| Liberal Democrat | 3 |
| UKIP | 3 |
| Labour | 1 |
- 2.4 The proposed allocation of seats to Committees is as indicated in the appendix to this report.
- 2.5 Although, according to the pro rata rules, there should be 3 Green and Rochford District Residents Group nominees for the Licensing Committee, that Group has indicated that it does not wish to nominate to one of these seats. Therefore, with Council's agreement, a member of another Group or the non Group Member may be appointed.

- 2.6 The seat allocations associated with the Council's one Sub-Committee, the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee, are unaffected.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Provision is made within the 2014/15 estimates for the anticipated costs that arise from Committees.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None other than set out in the report.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

- (1) That Committee seat allocations be as shown in the appendix to this report.
- (2) Whether to appoint a Member to the one seat on the Licensing Committee to which the Green and Rochford District Residents Group do not wish to nominate.



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Background Papers: None

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COMMITTEE SEAT ALLOCATIONS – 2014/15

Committee	No. of Seats	Conservative (64.103%)	Green and Rochford District Residents (17.949%)	Liberal Democrat (7.692%)	UKIP (7.692%)	Labour (2.564%)
Appeals	6	4	1	1		0
Audit	11	7	2	1	1	0
Development	39	25	7	3	3	1
Licensing	15	10	3	1	1	0
Review	15	10	3	1	1	0
Standards	8	5	1	1	1	0
Total No. of Seats	94	61	17	7.5	7.5	1