

**7. POLITICAL BALANCE: SECTION 15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989; THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COMMITTEES AND POLITICAL GROUPS) REGULATIONS 1990**

REPORT OF: Monitoring Officer: Tom Clark  
Email: [tom.clark@midsussex.gov.uk](mailto:tom.clark@midsussex.gov.uk) Tel: 01444 477459  
Wards Affected: All  
Key Decision No  
Report to: Annual Council  
7th May 2014

---

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to set out the political balance of the Council, for the 2014/15 Council year.

**Recommendations**

2. **That for the year 2014/15:**
    - i. **the two Planning Committees each comprise 12 members consisting of 20 Conservative over the 2 Committees, 2 Liberal Democrat over the 2 Committees, 1 Labour in Planning Committee A and 1 Independent in Planning Committee B;**
    - ii. **the Scrutiny Committee for Leader and Service Delivery comprises 15 members consisting of 13 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent;**
    - iii. **the Scrutiny Committee for Leisure and Community comprises 15 members consisting of 13 Conservative and 2 Liberal Democrat;**
    - iv. **the Scrutiny Committee for Planning and Economic Development comprises 15 members consisting of 12 Conservative, 2 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent;**
    - v. **the Licensing Committee comprises 15 members consisting of 12 Conservative, 2 Liberal Democrat and 1 Labour;**
    - vi. **the Standards Committee comprises 6 Council members consisting of 5 Conservative (other than the Leader), 1 Independent and 4 representatives of town/parish councils;**
    - vii. **the District Planning Committee comprises 12 members drawn equally from the membership of the two Area Planning Committees consisting of 10 Conservative and 2 Liberal Democrat, and**
    - viii. **the Audit Committee comprises 6 members consisting of 5 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat.**
- 

**Background**

1. Section 15 of the Local Government Act 1989 and the Regulations made thereunder, require the Council to review regularly the political composition of the Council and to

determine the size and constitution of its Committees etc. to ensure that the political balance is reflected and maintained in those Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Parties by allocating seats on each Committee to each group in direct proportion to each group's overall representation on the Council.

2. In accordance with legislation, the Council is required to consider the political balance of the Council and to determine the allocation of seats on Committees.

### **The Rules and Principles of Political Balance**

3. The political composition of the Council is now:

Conservative	45 seats (83.34%)
Liberal Democrat	6 seats (11.11%)
Independent	2 seats (3.70%)
Labour	1 seat (1.85%)

4. The principles of political balance require that:

1. not all seats on any committee or sub-committee are allocated to the same group;
2. the majority of seats on the committee/sub-committee is allocated to a particular group if that group has a majority of seats on the Council;
3. subject to 1 and 2 above that the number of seats allocated to any group on the total of all committees have the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council, and
4. subject to 1, 2 and 3 above that the number of seats on each committee allocated to each group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.

### **The Effect of the Rules on the Composition of Committees**

5. The following Committees and Advisory Groups are established:

Two Planning Committees, each having	12 members
Scrutiny Committee for Leader and Service Delivery	15 members
Scrutiny Committee for Leisure and Community	15 members
Scrutiny Committee for Planning and Economic Development	15 members
Licensing Committee	15 members
Standards Committee	6 members (plus four town/parish representatives)
District Planning Committee	12 members
Audit Committee	6 members

6. Political balance has been applied to Planning Committee A and Planning Committee B which gives representation on the Committees as follows:  
Planning Committee A – 10 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Labour  
Planning Committee B – 10 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent.

7. Subject to the proposals in this report being adopted, the composition of Committees of the Council will be as follows:

<b>Scrutiny Committee for Leader and Service Delivery</b>	<b>15 members</b>
Conservative	13
Liberal Democrat	1
Independent	1
<b>Scrutiny Committee for Leisure and Community</b>	<b>15 members</b>
Conservative	13
Liberal Democrat	2
<b>Scrutiny Committee for Planning and Economic Development</b>	<b>15 members</b>
Conservative	12
Liberal Democrat	2
Independent	1
<b>Audit Committee</b>	<b>6 members</b>
Conservative	5
Liberal Democrat	1
<b>Two Planning Committees</b>	<b>12 members on each committee</b>
Conservative	20 members over two committees
Liberal Democrat	2 members over two committees
Labour	1 member Planning Committee A
Independent	1 member Planning Committee B
<b>District Planning Committee</b>	<b>12 members (drawn equally from the membership of the two Area Planning Committees)</b>
Conservative	10
Liberal Democrat	2
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	<b>15 members</b>
Conservative	12
Liberal Democrat	2
Labour	1
<b>Standards Committee</b>	<b>6 members (plus four Town/Parish representatives)</b>
Conservative	5
Independent	1
<b>Total Number of Seats to be allocated:</b>	<b>108</b>
Total number of Conservative places	<b>90 (83.33%)</b>
Total number of Liberal Democrat places	<b>12 (11.11%)</b>
Total number of Independent places	<b>4 (3.70%)</b>

Total number of Labour places                      2 (1.85%)

**108**

**Financial Implications**

8.     None.

**Other Material Implications**

9.     None.

**Background Papers**

None.