

## **8. 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  
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Wards Affected: All  
Key Decision No  
Report to: Council  
28th June 2017

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to set out the political balance of the Council, for the remainder of the 2017/18 Council year.

### **Recommendations**

2. **That for the remainder of the year 2017/18:**
    - i. **the two Planning Committees each comprise 10 members consisting of 19 Conservative and one Liberal Democrat over the 2 Committees;**
    - ii. **the Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Resources and Economic Growth comprises 15 members consisting of 15 Conservative;**
    - iii. **the Scrutiny Committee for Customer Services and Service Delivery comprises 15 members consisting of 15 Conservative;**
    - iv. **the Scrutiny Committee for Community, Housing and Planning comprises 15 members consisting of 14 Conservative and one Liberal Democrat;**
    - v. **the Licensing Committee comprises 15 members consisting of 15 Conservative;**
    - vi. **the Standards Committee comprises 6 Council members consisting of 6 Conservative (other than the Leader);**
    - vii. **the District Planning Committee comprises 10 members drawn from the membership of the two Planning Committees consisting of 10 Conservative, but not any Cabinet Members, and**
    - viii. **the Audit Committee comprises 7 members consisting of 7 Conservative.**
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### **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 53 seats and 1 Liberal Democrat.
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	10 members
Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Resources and Economic Growth	15 members
Scrutiny Committee for Customer Services and Service Delivery	15 members
Scrutiny Committee for Community, Housing and Planning	15 members
Licensing Committee	15 members
Standards Committee	6 members (plus four town/parish representatives)
District Planning Committee	10 members
Audit Committee	7 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  
Planning Committee B – 9 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat
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, Resources and Economic Growth</b>	<b>15 members</b>
Conservative	15

**Scrutiny Committee for Customer Services and Service Delivery** **15 members**

Conservative 15

**Scrutiny Committee Community, Housing and Planning** **15 members**

Conservative 14

Liberal Democrat 1

**Audit Committee** **7 members**

Conservative 7

**Two Planning Committees** **10 members on each committee**

Conservative 19 members over two committees

Liberal Democrat 1

**District Planning Committee** **10 members (drawn equally from the membership of the two Planning Committees)**

Conservative 10

**Licensing Committee** **15 members**

Conservative 15

**Standards Committee** **6 members (plus four Town/Parish representatives)**

Conservative 6

**Total Number of Seats to be allocated:** **103**

Total number of Conservative places **101** (98% of the places allocated)

Total number of Liberal Democrat places **2** (2% of the places allocated)

### **Financial Implications**

8. None.

### **Other Material Implications**

9. None.

### **Background Papers**

None.