

ANNUAL COUNCIL, 25 MAY 2022, AGENDA ITEM 9: APPOINTING THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL AND THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION, APPENDIX 2

RECOMMENDED SEAT ALLOCATION

Having regard to the principles of political balance and of seat allocation referred to in Appendix 2, the following allocation of seats is recommended on the basis that, taking all factors into account, it shows a “reasonably practicable” allocation of seats and is therefore the default position.

		CONS	RES	LAB	EHRG
Governance	12	5	4	2	1
Licensing	11	5	4	2	1
Planning	8	3	3	1	1
Strategic Planning	8	4	1	1	0
Highways Advisory	8	3	3	1	0
Adjudication	8	3	3	1	0
Pensions	7	3	3	1	0
Audit	6	3	2	1	0
JV WP	9	4	3	1	0
O&S Board	16	7	6	3	1
Children's	9	4	3	1	0
Crime & Disorder	6	3	2	1	0
Towns & Communities	9	4	3	1	0
Environment	6	3	2	1	0
Health	6	3	2	1	0
Individuals	7	3	3	1	0
Total seats allocated	136	59	49	22	5

- Committee seats are allocated, and each Committee is balanced, as “reasonably practicably” as possible

PRINCIPLES FOR ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

The principles of seat allocation follow the requirements of the political balance principles, using a formula that takes account of the respective sizes of the Groups and the number of seats on Committees available for distribution among the Groups.

Basic allocation of seats

The seat entitlements of the Groups are agreed by a formula using the percentage of the membership of the Council represented by each Group (or Member(s) not in a Group), operating through a sequence of stages as follows:

First, the percentage of each Group's membership of the Council (and of any Members not within a Group) is calculated to two decimal places.

Next, that percentage is applied to the number of seats available on each Committee to agree each Group's potential entitlement to seats on that Committee. Where the resulting figure is not a whole number, generally it is rounded to the nearest whole number following the mathematical convention that numbers below .5 are rounded down, and those .5 or more are rounded up.

In some cases, a Group may be entitled to a seat even though, rounded down, its potential entitlement appears nil, as there is a specific number of seats available on each Committee and no other Group may have more seats on any Committee than its entitlement.

Once the size of the Groups are known, a table will be drawn up which will show the basic allocation on the basis of these principles to Committee sizes ranging from 3 Members to 15.

Finally, fine adjustment is required to ensure that, so far as reasonably practicable, the seats allocated reflect the overall proportion of Council membership held by each Group and the numerical strength of its entitlement to seats on particular Committees. For that purpose, at this stage the seat allocation of particular Committees will be adjusted from the ideally-balanced number reached in earlier stages of the process.

Specific allocations

For the allocation of seats on specific Committees, several permutations are possible. Although the Council's Constitution does specify particular numbers of seats to each Committee, it is expressed as being "or such other number as the Council may agree", so there is discretion as to Committee sizes.

Once the number of seats available on each Committee has been agreed, the allocation of seats to the individual Groups would then need to be adjusted between the Groups to achieve, so far as possible and practicable, an allocation that gives

each Group its proportionate share of seats overall while ensuring that each Committee is proportionately balanced. In practice, it will be impossible to achieve both aims without enlarging Committee memberships to an unworkable size, so a degree of compromise is required.