

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the Report is to advise the Council regarding the allocation of seats to political groups.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the allocation of seats be as follows:

Committee	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Labour	Independent	Total
Appeals	3	3			6
Appointments	3	3			6
Development Control	9	8			17
Final Accounts & Audit	2	2	1		5
Overview & Scrutiny	5	5		0	11
Personnel, Licensing & Administration	4	4			8
TOTAL	26	25	1	0	52

3. Background Information

3.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 15, (referred to as the 1989 Act) places the Council under a duty to review the allocation of seats on the Council's Committees. This duty must be fulfilled at certain prescribed times, one of which is the Annual Meeting.

3.2 The 1989 Act and Associated Regulations require that in allocating the seats the Council must make appointments in accordance with the basic principles out in Section 15.

3.3 The rules regarding political proportionality do not apply to the Executive, Area Committees, Licensing Committee or the Standards Committee.

3.4 Under the 1989 Act the minimum number of members of a Political Group is 2 but Councils may at their discretion appoint seats to individual members not in political groups.

4. The principles to be applied to allocating Seats on Committees

4.1 There are some basic principles to be followed when allocating seats on Committees:

- Not all the seats on a Committee are allocated to the same Political Group.
- That the total number of seats on a Committee allocated to a Political Group is the same proportion as far as possible as the proportion of the number of members of

the Group to the Council e.g. if Political Group A has 40% of the seats on the whole Council, they should have 40% of the seats on each committee.

- That as far as possible the total number of Committee seats (that is the seats on every committee added together) allocated to a Political Group should reflect the Political Group's proportion of seats held on the Council.
- The Council may exercise discretion by allocating seats to individual members not in a Political Group.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this Report.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this Report

7. Community and Environmental Implications

7.1 There are no direct Community and Environmental implications arising from this Report.

8. Human Resources Implications

8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this Report.

9. Equal Opportunities Implications

9.1 There are no direct Equal Opportunities implications arising from this Report.

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 23 MAY 2006

Documents used in preparing this Report:
The Constitution of the Council

Author : Will Oulton
Policy & Democratic Services Officer
Corporate Services
Tel : 01249 706611
Email: woulton@northwilts.gov.uk