

## 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:

	Lib/Dem	Cons	Lab	Ind	Total
Overview and Scrutiny	4	5	1	1	11
Development Control	7	7	0	1	15
Personnel, Licensing & Administration	4	4	0	0	8
Appointments	3	3	0	0	6
Appeals	3	3	0	0	6
Final Accounts & Audit	2	2	0	0	4
	23	24	1	2	50

### 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 27 JUNE 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