

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No. 9

Date of Meeting	5 TH September 2006
Title of Report	Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Allocation of Seats to Political Groups
Link to Corporate Priorities	None
Public Report	YES

Summary of Report

The Report is to advise the Council regarding the allocation of seats to political groups following the Colerne by-election.

Officer Recommendation

That the allocation identified at para 2.1. is adopted.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Contact Officer

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to advise the Council regarding the allocation of seats to political groups following the Colerne by-election.

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. In this instance the review was prompted by the results of the Colerne by-election. Group Leaders have been consulted prior to the publication of this report.
- 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. Risk Analysis

5.1 There are no identified risks related to this decision.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Allocation of Seats to Political Groups	Council – 27 th June 2006	C23