

**REPORT TO COUNCIL**

Report No. 10

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> January 2006</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Allocation of Seats to Political Groups</b>
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 political group changes.

**Officer Recommendation**

That the allocation of seats identified at paragraph 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

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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 resignation of Councillor M. West from the Liberal Democrat Group and his enrolment with the Independent Group.

## 2. Recommendation

### 2.1 That the allocation of seats be as follows:

	Lib/Dem	Cons	Lab	Ind	Total
Overview and Scrutiny	4	4	1	2	11
Development Control	7	7	0	1	15
Personnel, Licensing & Administration	3	4	0	1	8
Appointments	3	3	0	0	6
Appeals	3	3	0	0	6
Final Accounts & Audit	2	2	0	0	4
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## 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 review is necessitated by the resignation of a Councillor from their political group, and their enrolment with another political group.
- 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 set out in Section 15 (see paragraph 4.1, below).
- 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 members not in political groups to committees.

## 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. Allocation

- 5.1 Having applied the principles at 4.1 and made the necessary calculations, there is one less Conservative seat, one less Liberal Democrat seat and two more Independent seats.
- 5.2 These have been re allocated in table 2.1, where a seat has been transferred from the Conservative Group to the Independent Group on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and a seat has been transferred from the Liberal Democrat Group to the Independent Group on the Personnel, Licensing & Administration Committee.

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

### Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

<b>Report</b>	<b>Committee &amp; Date</b>	<b>Minute Reference</b>
Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Allocation of Seats to Political Groups	Council – 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2006	C42