

**Report to  
Council**

Date: **10 October 2013**

Report of: **Chief Executive Officer**

Subject: **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides details of the calculations for political balance relating to the allocation of seats on committees and panels, following the recent changes to political groups. The report asks the Council to appoint the nominations of the political groups to committees and also to appoint the role of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each committee.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council approves:

- (a) the allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix A for the remainder of the municipal year 2013-14; and
- (b) the nominations of the political groups to seats on committees, along with the nominations of deputies and the appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2013-14, as set out in Appendix B.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 imposes a duty on the local authority to review the allocation of seats on the committees of the authority as soon as is practicable after any division of, or change to political groups occurs.
2. Political groups of the Council shall cease to be constituted if the number of persons who are to be treated as members of that group is less than two, in accordance with Part III Regulation 8(2) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
3. On 2 September 2013, the Chief Executive Officer received notification from Councillor D M Whittingham that he wished to be treated as a member of the Fareham Borough Council Conservative Group with immediate effect. This request was confirmed by the Leader of the Conservative Group.
4. On 30 September 2013, the Chief Executive Officer received notification from Councillor N R Gregory that he wished to be treated as an independent member with immediate effect, following his resignation from the UK Independence Party.
5. As a result, Fareham Borough Council's UKIP Group is no longer constituted as it has no members.
6. Accordingly, the Council is now invited to review the allocation of seats to its committees along with the nomination of deputies and the appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2013-14. Such appointments will take effect from 11 October 2013.

## **ALLOCATION OF SEATS**

7. Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides the following principles which apply to the allocation of seats:
  - (a) that not all the seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;
  - (b) that the majority of seats on each Committee are allocated to a particular group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
  - (c) that, subject to (a) and (b), when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council, must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership; and
  - (d) subject to (a) to (c), that the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.
8. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that, once the Council has determined the allocation of Committee places between the political groups, the Council must then appoint the nominees of the political groups to the Committees.

## POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

9. Following the cessation of the UKIP group in September 2013, the political balance of the Council is set out in the following table:

Group	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	(Independent)	Total
Councillors	23	6	(2)	31
%	74.19	19.36	(6.45)	100

10. The allocation of seats between the political groups for each committee shall be in accordance with the figures at Appendix A to this report.

## ADJUSTMENTS FOLLOWING CALCULATIONS

11. Each of the political groups is entitled to a certain number of seats on committees. This is based upon their percentage representation on the Council as a whole, as detailed in the table at paragraph 8 above.
12. There are a total of 82 seats to be allocated and the strict entitlement to seats on committees for each political group is as follows:
- Conservative - 61 seats
  - Liberal Democrat - 16 seats
13. Each of the political groups are only entitled to their proportion of seats and once this entitlement has been reached, a manual adjustment may be necessary.
14. Appendix A shows a rounded allocation of seats to each political group. This is then required to be manually adjusted to ensure that the number of seats allocated to a particular political group matches and does not exceed their strict entitlement.
15. Therefore, the following manual adjustments are required:

- (a) Under the calculation, the Conservative Group has notionally been allocated 61 seats on committees. The Group cannot have a greater representation on committees than their strict entitlement of 61 seats and so no manual adjustment is required.
- (b) The Liberal Democrat Group has notionally been allocated 14 seats on committees. This is 2 less than their strict entitlement of 16 seats and so a positive adjustment must be made to balance the allocations.

The seat allocations for each committee must equal the agreed number of seats for that committee, as determined by the Council at its Annual Meeting in May 2013. Where this does not occur, the manual adjustments described at (b) above, must be made from those committees requiring a balancing adjustment. These affected committees are shaded in the table at Appendix A.

- (c) There are two independent councillors who are not members of a Fareham Borough Council political group. There is no strict entitlement calculation applicable to an independent member however, following the calculations and allocation of seats to political groups, the Council must appoint the non-group members to any seats not otherwise allocated.

These remaining seats are “gifted” to the independent members and the allocation of these seats must be agreed by a vote of the Council.

16. Group Leaders have been requested to provide nominations to the places on committees to which their respective groups are entitled. The nominations of political groups to seats on committees are set out in Appendix B.
17. The Council is also required to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each committee and these nominations are included at Appendix B, along with the nomination of deputies.
18. The minority group Leader has been requested to nominate a spokesman for each Executive portfolio area. The nominations of spokesmen to seats on committees are set out in Appendix B.

**Background Papers:**

Letters to the Chief Executive Officer

**Reference Papers:**

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Leigh Usher. (Ext 4553)