

Adjourned Council – 24th May 2006

Formation of political groups and appointments on Committees

Summary of report

This report informs the Council of the composition of political groups making up the Council. The report explains the political balance on Council Committees consistent with the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended). The report also sets out the nominations to Committees as supplied by political groups.

Recommendations

- (1) That the Council notes the receipt of returns from political groups.
- (2) That members be appointed to serve on Committees for the municipal year 2006/2007 as set out in the attached schedule.

Political Groups

1. Returns have been received in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990 (as amended) as follows:-

- (a) **Conservative Group (34)**

Group Leader:	Councillor T.G. Ansell
Deputy Leader:	Councillor J.G. O'Hare

Councillor A. Andrew
Councillor M. Arif
Councillor Aqeel Aslam
Councillor C. Ault
Councillor L.A. Beeley
Councillor J. Beilby
Councillor M.A. Bird
Councillor G. Clarke
Councillor R.J.H. Collins
Councillor B.A. Douglas-Maul
Councillor A.E. Griffiths
Councillor A.D. Harris
Councillor L.A. Harrison
Councillor E.F. Hughes
Councillor H. Khan
Councillor M. Longhi

Councillor R.A. Martin
Councillor B.V. McCracken
Councillor C. Micklewright
Councillor A.J. Paul
Councillor G. Perry
Councillor D.J. Pitt
Councillor M.G. Pitt
Councillor J. Rochelle
Councillor B. Sanders
Councillor K. Sears
Councillor C.D.D. Towe
Councillor D.J. Turner
Councillor W.T. Tweddle
Councillor R.E. Walker
Councillor M. Yasin
Councillor Zahid Ali

(b) **Labour Group (19)**

Group Leader: Councillor T.S. Oliver
Deputy Leader: Councillor S.P. Coughlan

Councillor D.A. Anson
Councillor J.M. Barton
Councillor R. Burley
Councillor B. Cassidy
Councillor K. Chambers
Councillor C.U. Creaney
Councillor A. D. Johnson
Councillor S.W. Madeley
Councillor M. Nazir
Councillor J.D. Phillips
Councillor K. Phillips
Councillor I.S. Robertson
Councillor R.S. Robinson
Councillor H.S. Sarohi
Councillor A. Underhill
Councillor G.E. Wilkes
Councillor P.A. Young

2. In accordance with the Regulations, as no return has been received from the Liberal Democrat Group, the latest return received has been regarded as the membership of the group as follows:-

Liberal Democrat (6)

Group Leader: Councillor I. Shires
Deputy Leader: Councillor Mrs. E.E. Pitt

Councillor A.G. Bentley
Councillor J.R. Cook
Councillor D.A. Shires
Councillor V. Woodruff

3. Councillor Bott does not belong to any political group and is referred to as an independent member.

Ratio for allocation of Committee seats

4. The allocation of Council Committee places must be made in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989. Achieving political balance is a complex process which requires a compromise to be made between sets of calculations. This can result in marginal differences which may be significant to Committee representation of individual political groups. The required "balance" has to be achieved by the Council allocating seats on individual Committees to properly constituted political groups based on the size of each group in relation to the size of the Council and so far as is reasonably practicable at the same time the total number of seats allocated to each group across all Committees must be in the same proportion.
5. These calculations are rarely exact, but in seeking to ensure that all political groups are dealt with fairly, this report implements the requirements of the relevant legislation.
6. The Council is open to legal challenge if it was thought not to have used its best endeavours to achieve "so far as reasonably practicable" a position where the allocation of seats reflects the political make-up of the Council. The final decision necessary to achieve political balance lies with the Council and officers have worked to bring forward to Council clear recommendations to achieve the intentions of the legislation.
7. On the basis of the political groups the allocation of seats on Committees must be calculated in the ratio of 34 : 19: 6: 1: reflecting the size of the groups on the Council.
8. The declared political groups will be asked for nominations to the allocated places in accordance with their numerical strength as recorded in their returns to the Chief Executive.

Schedule

The attached schedule shows the number of seats to which each political group is entitled overall as well as individual Committees.

Background papers

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended)
Papers returned by Group Leaders to the Chief Executive May 2006.

Signed:

Chief Executive

Date: 24th May 2006

Appointments on Committees

REGULATORY COMMITTEES	Seats	Composition	Proposed membership
1. Audit	7	Con (4) Lab (2) Lib Dem (1)	Griffiths Martin D. Pitt Turner Chambers Robertson D.A. Shires
2. Appointments Board <i>(All appointees must have completed relevant training prior to sitting on any panel)</i>	7	Con (4) Lab (2) Lib Dem (1)	Ansell O'Hare + 2 Members of Cabinet relevant to the appointment K. Phillips + 1 Member relevant to appointment I. Shires
3. Development Control <i>(This Committee is not subject to the requirements for political balance)</i>	20	Ward: Ald. Central & S. Ald. Nrth & W.W. Bentley & Darl N. Birchills-Leamore Blakenall Bloxwich East Bloxwich West Brownhills Darlaston South Paddock Palfrey Pelsall Pheasey P. Farm Pleck Rushall-Shelfield Short Heath St. Matthews Streetly Willenhall North Willenhall South	Rochelle Collins Madeley J. Phillips Robinson Beeley M. Pitt Turner Burley Zahid Yasin Ault Bird Anson Micklewright Cook Khan Douglas-Maul Bentley Underhill

REGULATORY COMMITTEES	Seats	Composition	Proposed membership
4. Employment Appeals A (Note: Not to be Members of the Appointments Brd.)	7	Con (4) Lab (2) Lib Dem (1)	Beilby Douglas-Maul Griffiths Turner Chambers Sarohi Cook
5. Employment Appeals B (Note: Not to be Members of the Appointments Brd.)	7	Con (4) Lab (2) Lib Dem (1)	Arif Harris Martin Tweddle Burley Cassidy E. Pitt
6. Licensing and Safety	14	Con (8) Lab (5) Lib Dem (1)	Beeley Beilby Clarke Harris Micklewright Rochelle Sears Tweddle Barton Cassidy Johnson Robinson Wilkes Bentley
7. LEA Governor Appointment Panel	5	Con (3) Lab (1) Lib Dem (1)	Hughes Towe Yasin Anson D.A. Shires

REGULATORY COMMITTEES	Seats	Composition	Proposed membership
8. Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Leader of the Council • 1 Member from each Political Group • 6 independent members 	3	Deputy Leader of Council Con (1) Lab (1) Lib Dem (1)	O'Hare Khan Underhill Bentley

SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANELS	Seats	Composition	Proposed membership
9. Children's and Young People	9	<p>Con (5)</p> <p>Lab (3)</p> <p>Lib Dem (1)</p> <p>together with representatives from:</p>	<p>Arif Bird Khan Martin Micklewright</p> <p>Cassidy Chambers Creaney</p> <p>E.E. Pitt</p> <p>1 Lichfield Diocesan Education (voting) 1 Archbishop of Birmingham (voting) 3 Parent Governors (voting) 1 Primary Education Teachers (non-voting) 1 Secondary Education Teachers (non-voting)</p>
10. Neighbourhood	9	<p>Con (5)</p> <p>Lab (2)</p> <p>Lib Dem (1)</p> <p>Ind (1)</p>	<p>Aslam Ault Beeley Beilby Towe</p> <p>Burley K. Phillips</p> <p>Woodruff</p> <p>Bott</p>
11. Health, Social Care and Inclusion	9	<p>Con (5)</p> <p>Lab (3)</p> <p>Lib Dem (1)</p>	<p>Ault Griffiths McCracken Micklewright D. Pitt</p> <p>Barton Oliver Roberston</p> <p>Woodruff</p>

SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANELS	Seats	Composition	Proposed membership
12. Regeneration	9	<div>Con (5)</div> <div>Lab (3)</div> <div>Lib Dem (1)</div>	<div>Arif Clarke Hughes M. Pitt Yasin</div> <div>Anson Coughlan Robinson</div> <div>I. Shires</div>
13. Corporate	9	<div>Con (5)</div> <div>Lab (3)</div> <div>Lib Dem (1)</div>	<div>Bird Griffiths Rochelle Towe Turner</div> <div>J. Phillips Sarohi Young</div> <div>D.A. Shires</div>