

## **Adjourned Council – 21st May 2008**

### **Formation of political groups**

#### **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).

#### **Recommendations**

That the Council notes the receipt of returns from political groups.

#### **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 (33)**

Group Leader:	Councillor J.G. O'Hare
Deputy Leader:	Councillor A. Andrew

Councillor M. Ahmed  
Councillor Zahid Ali  
Councillor T.G. Ansell  
Councillor M. Arif  
Councillor C. Ault  
Councillor L.A. Beeley  
Councillor M.A. Bird  
Councillor G. Clarke  
Councillor B.A. Douglas-Maul  
Councillor M. Flower  
Councillor A.E. Griffiths  
Councillor A.D. Harris  
Councillor L.A. Harrison  
Councillor E.F. Hughes  
Councillor M. Longhi  
Councillor R.A. Martin  
Councillor B.V. McCracken  
Councillor C. Micklewright  
Councillor M. Munir

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. Twedde  
Councillor R.E. Walker  
Councillor M. Yasin

**(b) Labour Group (18)**

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

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

**(c) Liberal Democrat Group (6)**

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

Councillor J.R. Cook  
Councillor P. Hughes  
Councillor D.A. Shires  
Councillor V. Woodruff

2. Councillors C. Bott, P. Bott and Smith do not belong to any group on the Council.

## **Ratio for allocation of Committee seats**

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. On the basis of the political groups the allocation of seats on Committees must be calculated in the ratio of 33: 18: 6: 1: 1: 1: reflecting the size of the groups on the Council.
7. The declared political groups have been asked for nominations to the allocated places in accordance with their numerical strength as recorded in their returns to the Chief Executive.

## **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: 21st May 2008