

# Annual Council – 16th June 2014

## Formation of political groups

### 1. 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).

### 2. Recommendations

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

### 3. Political Groups

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

#### (a) Labour Group (29)

Group Leader: Councillor S.P. Coughlan  
Deputy Leader: Councillor M. Nazir

Councillor D.A. Anson  
Councillor M.R. Burley  
Councillor B. Cassidy  
Councillor K. Chambers  
Councillor C. Clews  
Councillor D. Coughlan  
Councillor C.U. Creaney  
Councillor A. Ditta  
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick  
Councillor S.F. Fitzpatrick  
Councillor K. Hussain  
Councillor G. Illmann-Walker  
Councillor D. James  
Councillor L.D. Jeavons  
Councillor T. Jukes  
Councillor P. Lane  
Councillor A. Nawaz  
Councillor K. Phillips  
Councillor I.C. Robertson  
Councillor E.B. Russell  
Councillor H.S. Sarohi

Councillor A. Underhill  
Councillor S. Wade  
Councillor F. Westley  
Councillor V. Whyte  
Councillor R.V. Worrall  
Councillor P.A. Young

(b) **Conservative Group (21)**

Group Leader: Councillor M.A. Bird  
Deputy Leader: Councillor A. Andrew

Councillor M. Arif  
Councillor O.D. Bennett  
Councillor G. Clarke  
Councillor B.A. Douglas-Maul  
Councillor M. Flower  
Councillor A.D. Harris  
Councillor L.A. Harrison  
Councillor E.F. Hughes  
Councillor M. Longhi  
Councillor R.A. Martin  
Councillor B.V. McCracken  
Councillor J. Murray  
Councillor G. Perry  
Councillor L. Rattigan  
Councillor J. Rochelle  
Councillor G. Sohal  
Councillor K. Sears  
Councillor C.D.D. Towe  
Councillor T. S. Wilson

(c) **Liberal Democrat Group (3)**

Group Leader: Councillor I. Shires  
Deputy Leader: Councillor D. Barker

Councillor D.A. Shires

(d) **UK Independence Party (UKIP) (3)**

Group Leader: Councillor L. Hazell  
Deputy Leader: Councillor S. Craddock

Councillor D. Hazell

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

## **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 29: 21: 3: 3: 1: 1: 1: reflecting the size of the groups on the Council.
8. 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/June 2014

Signed:

Chief Executive

Date: 6th June 2014