

Adjourned Council – 23rd May 2007

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 J. Beilby
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 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

(b) **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. In accordance with the Regulations, as no return has been received from the Labour Group, the latest return received has been regarded as the membership of the group as follows:-

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

3. Councillors C. Bott, P. Bott and Smith do not belong to any political 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 33: 18: 6: 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 2006.

Signed:

Interim Chief Executive

Date: 23rd May 2007