

CHESHIRE EAST

Shadow Council

Date: 13 May 2008
Report of: Interim Monitoring Officer
Title Political Proportionality and appointment of Cabinet/Executive and Committees

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the political proportions on the Council, determine the size of Committees, appoint Members to the Cabinet, appoint members to Committees, and consider appointment of chairmen and vice-chairmen of committees.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To decide on the size of Committees
2.2 To approve the Shadow Council's allocation of seats to political groups
2.3 To appoint Members to the Cabinet
2.4 To appoint Members to Committees (Governance and Constitution Committee, Scrutiny Committee, Staffing Committee, Joint Liaison Committee) in accordance with the political proportions as allocated
2.5 To appoint members to the Standards Committee
2.6 To appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees

3.0 Implications for Transitional Costs

As set out in the report on Members' Allowances Scheme on this agenda.

4.0 Background and options

- 4.1 The Shadow Authority's proportionality for 2008/9 comprises:

	Seats	%
Conservative	59	72.84
Liberal Democrat	12	14.81
Labour	6	7.40
Independent	4	4.94
Total	81	100

- 4.2 The Cabinet and the Standards Committee are not subject to political proportionality rules.
- 4.3 The proportion of seats allocated to each group on committees which are subject to political proportionality rules must reflect the proportion of seats held by each group on the Shadow Authority. As far as practicable the seats on each committee should also be proportional.

- 4.4 It is suggested that the following numbers of seats on the Committees, would fit well with the above political proportions and would be appropriate sizes for the work of the committees:
- 4.4.1 A Governance and Constitution Committee; 14 is suggested as a workable number;
 - 4.4.2 A Scrutiny Committee; whilst the People and Places Bid suggested 12 members a committee of 14 members would be workable and would fit the political proportionality well
 - 4.4.3 A Staffing Committee (to appoint the Chief Executive and Senior Managers); advice from the Lead Officer for Human Resources is that this should be relatively small and 7 Members is suggested (under regulations this must include at least one Cabinet Member)
 - 4.4.4 A Joint East/West Liaison Committee; 5 members from each authority, making a total of 10, is suggested as a workable number.
- 4.5 The number of committee seats available in the above structure is 40. Applying the appropriate political proportion rules this would give each group the following seat numbers:

Committee	Total	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Labour	Independent
Governance (14)	14	10	2	1	1
Scrutiny (14)	14	10	2	1	1
Staffing (7)	7	5	1	1	0
Joint Liaison Committee (5)	5	4	1	0	0
TOTAL	40	29	6	3	2

- 4.6 In accordance with the Constitution which has been recommended for acceptance by the Shadow Council at item 6 on this agenda, if this has been accepted, Rule 17.1 provides that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of every committee and sub committee will be elected at the first meeting of the Shadow Council where possible; the Shadow Council therefore needs to consider whether it is able to make these appointments at this meeting.
- 4.7 With regard to portfolios, at its meeting 6 May 2008, having regard to the work carried out by the Political Structures sub group, the Joint Committee considered portfolios and the areas they might cover and recommended that there be 10 Cabinet members and portfolios with the Leader and Deputy Leader each being allocated one of the portfolios, but that the areas covered by the portfolios be subject to further consideration and allocated at a later point. This point is also explained at paragraph 5.12 of the Committee and Other Structures report to be considered at Item 7 on this agenda.
- 4.8 In respect of the Standards Committee, the Joint Committee on 6 May recommended a membership of 8 elected members, 5 independent members and 3 parish/town council representatives. Although the political balance rules do not apply to the Standards Committee, in the spirit of inclusivity of the elected membership, and having regard to the non-political nature of the Standards Committee's work, it is suggested that the elected member seats be allocated in the proportions of 5 Conservatives, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Labour and 1 Independent Group.

For further information:-

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Background Documents:-

The Constitution
Cheshire East Joint Committee agendas

Documents are available for inspection at:
Town Hall Macclesfield / Westfields Sandbach Cheshire
www.cheshireeast.gov.uk