

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## COUNCIL

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**Date of Meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
**Report of:** Head of Governance and Democratic Services  
**Title:** Political Representation on the Council's Committees

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### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To determine the political representation on the Council's Committees.

### **2.0 Decision Required**

- 2.1 That the political group representation, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report and the methods, calculations and conventions used in determining this, as outlined in the report be adopted.

### **3.0 Legal Implications**

- 3.1 The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, made pursuant to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, makes provisions in respect of the political group representation on a local authority's committees in relation to the overall political composition of the Council. The legislation applies to overview and scrutiny committees and the decision-making committees and sub committees of the Council.
- 3.2 The legislation requires that, where proportionality applies, and seats are allocated to different political groups, the authority must abide by the following principles, so far as is reasonably practicable:
- 3.2.1 Not all of the seats can be allocated to the same political group. (i.e. there are no single group committees.)
  - 3.2.2 The majority of seats on a body are to be allocated to a political Group with a majority membership of the authority.
  - 3.2.3 The total number of seats on all ordinary committees and sub committees allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council. Appendix 1 achieves this.
  - 3.2.4 The number of seats on each ordinary committee allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on full Council.
- 3.3 The proposals contained in this report meet the requirements of the legislation.
- 3.4 The 1990 Regulations require Political Group Leaders to notify the Proper Officer of the Group's nominations to the bodies in question.

## **4.0 Risk Assessment**

- 4.1 Failure to comply with the Act and Regulations when appointing its committee memberships would leave the Council open to legal challenge.

## **5.0 Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.**

- 5.1 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the proposed political representation on ordinary committees and sub committees, based on the political structure of the Council as a whole and taking into account changes that have occurred during the Municipal Year including the decision to reduce the number of overview and scrutiny committees. The following is the basis of the approach adopted:

Conservatives	51	62.19
Labour	16	19.51
Independent/Others	10	12.20
Liberal Democrat	4	4.88
Others	1	1.22
TOTAL	82	100%

- 5.2 The proportionalities in Appendix 1 have been arrived at by the following methods and conventions:

- applying the relevant percentage to each body;
- rounding up from 0.5 and above and rounding down below 0.5

- 5.3 The Act provides that where this results in a Group having a total of more or fewer actual seats than its proportional entitlement, any surplus seats are re-allocated to ensure that the final actual allocation to each Group equals the proportional entitlement. Appendix 1 shows the proposed allocation of seats taking into account the actual allocation agreed by Council following the recommendations made by the Group Whips.

- 5.4 The proportionality rules do not apply to the Cabinet or to the Appeals Sub Committee, Licensing Sub Committees or the Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee. These bodies are therefore excluded from the proportionality calculation in Appendix 1. However, Council is asked to confirm the size and composition of the Appeals Sub Committee, Licensing Sub Committee Panel and the Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee.

- 5.5 The proportionality rules do not apply to Policy Development Groups and a separate report is included elsewhere on the Agenda.

## **6. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 6.1 To determine political representation on the Council's committees and to receive the Groups nominations to the different bodies referred to in the report.

### ***For further information:***

*Officer: Brian Reed Head of Governance and Democratic Services*

*Tel No: 01270 686670*

*Email: [brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk)*

***Background Documents: None***