

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Council

Date of Meeting:	17 May 2017
Report of:	Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Title:	Political Representation on the Council's Committees

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To determine the political representation on the Council's Committees and to appoint those Committees.

2.0 Decision Required

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

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. The Appendix to this report 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 The Appendix 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:

Conservatives	51
Labour	16
Independent Group	12
Liberal Democrat	2
Non-grouped ind	1
TOTAL	82

5.2 The proportionalities in the Appendix 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
- where the required numbers of Members for a decision-making body cannot be achieved using the above methods and calculations, the political group having the largest residual percentage for that body will be entitled to be awarded the additional place (e.g if one Group is entitled to 4.25 places and another Group is entitled to 1.48 places, the first Group will be awarded 4 places on the body in question and the second Group will be awarded 2 places).

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.

5.4 The proportionality rules only apply to those bodies listed in the Appendix, which are subject to proportionality rules.

6.0 Access to Information

There are no background papers.

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