

**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 18 May 2006

**Report of:** The Chief Executive

**Subject:** Review of Political Balance and Appointment of Committees and Sub-Committees

**Wards Affected:** All

**1. Purpose of Report and Policy Context**

- 1.1 The Council is required at, or as soon as practicable after, each Annual Meeting of the Council to review the allocation of seats to political groups.
- 1.2 To review the allocation of seats to political groups resulting from the changes to the size of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee from 7 to 10.
- 1.3 To re-appoint the Committees, Sub-Committees and Forums of the Council and membership thereof and to consider and appoint representatives to various Outside Bodies for the ensuing municipal year or in accordance with the period of office for the respective Body.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the allocation of seats as detailed in the report and in appendix 2 to the report be approved;
- 2.2 That accordingly, the Council re-appoints its Committees and Sub-Committees with the sizes and allocation of seats between political groups as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
- 2.3 That having received nominations to the Committees and Sub-Committees from the Chief Whips of the 4 political groups, as detailed in appendix 3 to the report, such nominations be agreed and the committee places filled respectively;
- 2.4 That in having regard to 2.3 above, those Members listed as Chair, Deputy Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of the respective Committees and Sub-Committees in appendix 3 be appointed to those positions;
- 2.5 That having received nominations for the appointments to the list of Outside Bodies from the Chief Whips of the 4 political groups as detailed in appendix 4

to the report, such appointments be agreed.

### 3. Background/Information

3.1 The political composition of the Council is Labour (23 Members), Conservative (20 Members), Green (6 Members), Liberal Democrat (3 Members) and Independent Members (2). Section 15(1) of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review the representation of the different political groups on committees and sub-committees:

- At, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting of the Council or,
- Where notice is received of a change in the composition of political groups.

3.2 The Chief Executive is under a duty, whenever such a review takes place to submit a report to the Council showing what allocation of seats would in his/her opinion best meet the requirements of Section 15 of the 1989 Act.

3.3 The Council's duty to determine the allocation of seats is prescribed by Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (specifically sub-sections (3) to (5)). These do not impose any specific requirement on the Council to consult the political groups as to which committees' seats should be allocated – this only applies to the actual allocation of a seat to a particular Member.

3.4 It is clearly preferable if all Groups have an agreed position as to which committees are to be adjusted, provided that the agreed position does not conflict with the Council's duty, which is "to make **only** such determinations as give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the principles specified in sub-section (5)."

3.4.1 In summary, these principles of determination ("principles"), are that:

- (a) All seats are not allocated to the same Group,
- (b) The majority of the seats go the Group (if any) which has an overall majority on the Council (i.e. more than 27 seats),
- (c) Subject to the above two principles, that the number of seats on the total of all the committees/sub-committees allocated to each Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the Full Council, and
- (d) Subject to (a) and (c), that the number of seats on each committee/sub-committee allocated to each Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the Full Council.

#### Overall Political Group split on the Council

3.5 The political groups have the following seats on the Council:

<u>Party</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>Calculation</u>	<u>%</u>
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- (c) The Green Group's allocation on the Licensing Committee be increased by 1 seat, (and this be reflected on the Licensing Act 2003 Committee), to take account of the reduction in allocation to the Independent Member, Councillor Bennett;
- (d) Councillor Bennett be allocated a seat on the Children, Families & Schools Committee and a seat on the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- (e) Councillor Giebeler be allocated a seat on the Overview & Scrutiny Organisation Committee and a seat on the Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 The Leaders of the four political groups have been consulted on the proposed allocations and notification of nominations for committee membership and appointments to outside bodies will be provided after the respective Annual Group Meetings. Details of these nominations will be listed in appendices 3 and 4, which will be tabled at the Council meeting.

<b>Meeting/Date</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee 13 April 2005</b>		
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Independent Remuneration Panel</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Review of Mayoral Allowances</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>		
<p><b>Financial implications</b> There are no financial implications other than in relation to the payment of special responsibility allowances to the respective postholders, as set out in the Members Allowances Scheme approved by the Council.</p> <p>Finance Officer consulted: <i>Patrick Rice</i> Date <i>04/05/06</i></p>			
<p><b>Legal implications</b> The proposals in this report comply with the requirements of the Local Government &amp; Housing Act 1989. There are no adverse Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.</p> <p>Lawyer consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis, Head of Law. Date 04/05/06</p>			
<p><b>Corporate/Citywide implications</b> There are no implications arising from the report.</p>		<p><b>Risk assessment</b> Not applicable</p>	
<p><b>Sustainability implications</b> There are no direct sustainability issues arising from the report.</p>		<p><b>Equalities implications</b> There are no implications arising from the report.</p>	
<p><b>Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder</b> There are no specific implications arising from this report.</p>			
<p><b>Background papers</b></p> <p>1. Local Government &amp; Housing Act 1989</p>			
<p><b>Contact Officer</b></p> <p>Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services Tel: 291006</p>			



## MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

2006/2007

<b>Committee / Sub-Committee</b>	<b>No. Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Lib/Dem</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
<b>Policy &amp; Resources</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Adult Social Care &amp; Health</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Children, Families &amp; Schools</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Environment</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Licensing*</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Culture &amp; Tourism Sub</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Planning Applications Sub</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Housing Management Sub</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Personnel Appeals Sub (from a pool of Members)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Licensing Sub</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Committee / Sub-Committee</b>	<b>No. Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Lib/Dem</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Organisation</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Children &amp; Young People's Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Health Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Licensing 2003Act*</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

\*Both Committees have the same membership

<b>Other Bodies</b>						
Standards Committee	6	2	2	1	1	-
Community Safety Forum	10	4	4	1	1	-
Equalities Forum	10	4	4	1	1	-
Sustainability Commission	10	4	4	1	1	-