

## **Appendix 1**

### 1. METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS

- 1.1 The rules governing the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels to Political Groups are set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulations made thereunder. The Executive is exempt from the application of those rules and does not have to be politically balanced. The Licensing Committee is also exempt from the rules on political balance, although it is recommended that it should be balanced as far as possible and the Council therefore decided (Minute C.246/04(b)) that it should be comprised of the same members as form the Regulatory Panel. The political balance rules strictly therefore only apply to the Committees and Panels shown in Appendix 2.

The rules governing the allocation are relatively complex and are:

- (i) That not all the seats are allocated to the same Political Group.
- (ii) That the majority of the seats on each Committee go to the Political Group with the majority on the full Council.
- (iii) Subject to the above two principles, that the total number of the Committee seats allocated to each Group bears the same proportion to the proportion of the Group on the full Council.
- (iv) Subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each Committee allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion of the Group on the full Council.

It is important to note in understanding the allocations shown in the Appendix that the above principles must be applied in the sequential order set out above. For example, the principle in paragraph (iii) above of ensuring that the Groups are allocated their total aggregate entitlement must be complied with before the number of seats on each Committee is balanced in accordance with principle (iv).

- 1.2 The duty is to apply the above principles so far as reasonably practicable. This is met by rounding down fractional entitlements of less than a half and rounding up entitlements of a half or more. If there are competing fractions then the higher fraction will “win”. If this leads to a bigger entitlement than there are seats available on a Committee then fractions have to be rounded down to make entitlements fit available seats.

## 2. CALCULATION OF THE GROUPS' ENTITLEMENT ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS

- 2.1 There are in total 77 seats to be allocated by the Council on the Regulatory Panel, the Development Control Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Standards Committee, the Employment Panel, the Audit Committee and the Appeals Panels. The Conservative Group has 18 Members, Labour 13, and the Independent and Liberal Democrat Group has 3 Members. The Council now has four individual members who are not in a political group: Green Party and three separate Independents. The Council also has one vacant seat which will not be filled due to the local government reorganisation legislation but which must still be taken into account. As can be seen from the calculations in the Appendix attached, when working out the total aggregate allocation to each Political Group relative to their strengths on the Council, the Conservatives should receive 36 seats, Labour 26 seats, the Independent and Liberal Democrat Group get 6 seats and the Green Party and three Independents each get 2 seats. This leaves the required seat allocation one short therefore the 'vacant seat' creates the balancing figure.
- 2.2 When the seats are allocated on each Committee on a straight allocation following the rounding up/rounding down principles set out above, the Independent and Liberal Democrat Group have one seat too many whilst the solo members do not receive any seats. Some minor adjustment is, therefore, necessary.
- 2.3 Applying the adjustments, the Independent and Liberal Democrat group lose one seat on the Standards Committee. Adjustments have been made so that the Green Party and Independent Members get their two seats each. The vacant seat allocation is on Appeal Panel 3 where it has least effect. Accordingly, all political groups have their full allocation and the solo members have the balancing seats as per their entitlement.

## Appendix 2

### CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS

1. The political balance on the full Council is:

18 Conservatives; 13 Labour; 3 Independent and Liberal Democrat Group Members; 1 Independent (RT); 1 Independent (RB); 1 Independent (PN) and, 1 Green Party Member. The Council carries 1 vacancy which will not be filled.

2. There are 77 seats in total on those Committees and Panels which are subject to the proportionality rules giving aggregate entitlements to the groups as follows:

Conservative	$\frac{18}{39} \times 77 = 35.54$	36 rounded up
Labour	$\frac{13}{39} \times 77 = 25.67$	26 rounded up
Lib Dem Group	$\frac{3}{39} \times 77 = 5.92$	6 rounded up
Green party	$\frac{1}{39} \times 77 = 1.97$	2 rounded up
Independent (RT)	$\frac{1}{39} \times 77 = 1.97$	2 rounded up
Independent (PN)	$\frac{1}{39} \times 77 = 1.97$	2 rounded up
Independent (RB)	$\frac{1}{39} \times 77 = 1.97$	2 rounded up
Vacant	$\frac{1}{39} \times 77 = 1.97$	1 rounded down
<b>Total</b>		<b>77</b>

	Number of	<b>CONSERV</b>		<b>LABOUR</b>		<b>IND &amp; LIB DEMS</b>		<b>SOLO MEMBERS</b>	
	Seats	Proportion	Actual	Proportion	Actual	Proportion	Actual	Proportion	Actual
Regulatory Panel	12	5.54	6	4.00	4	0.92	1	0.31	1
Development Control	12	5.54	6	4.00	4	0.92	1	0.31	1
People	8	3.69	4	2.67	3	0.62	1	0.21	0
Scrutiny Panel									
Resources	8	3.69	4	2.67	3	0.62	1	0.21	0
Scrutiny Panel									
Place	8	3.69	4	2.67	3	0.62	1	0.21	0
Scrutiny Panel									
Standards Committee	7	3.23	3	2.33	2	0.54	0	0.18 (x2)	2
Employment Panel	6	2.77	3	2.00	2	0.46	0	0.15	1
Audit Committee	7	3.23	3	2.33	2	0.54	1	0.18	1
Appeals Panel 1	3	1.38	1	1.00	1	0.23	0	0.08	1
Appeals Panel 2	3	1.38	1	1.00	1	0.23	0	0.08	1
Appeals Panel 3	3	1.38	1	1.00	1	0.23	0	0.08	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>		<b>36</b>		<b>26</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>9</b>