

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WITH 10 SEATS EXPLANATION OF ALLOCATION AS BETWEEN LABOUR AND LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUPS

1. Labour are entitled to 25.26 of the aggregate total of Council seats. This represents exactly  $\frac{18}{52}$  of the total seats.
2. Liberal Democrats are entitled to 8.42 of the aggregate total of Council seats. This represents exactly  $\frac{6}{52}$  of the total seats.
3. The objective in the legislation is when allocating seats, to keep as near as reasonably practicable to these figures and fractions.
4. The need to give the Conservatives a majority on each Committee means that Labour and the Liberal Democrats will never get their full entitlement. One Group will have to be 2 seats short of their full entitlement and one 3 seats. The question is who loses the extra seat? In order to comply with the legislation it must be the Group which has the less outstanding "entitlement" to that seat to make sure that we keep as near as possible to the overall fractions of  $\frac{18}{52}$  and  $\frac{6}{52}$  ie to 25.26 seats for Labour and 8.42 seats for the Liberal Democrats.
5. If Labour were given 22 seats only, they would be 3.26 seats down from their aggregate entitlement and "perfect" fraction of  $\frac{18}{52}$ .
6. If the Liberal Democrats got 5 seats only, they would be 3.42 seats down from their aggregate entitlement or "perfect" fraction of  $\frac{6}{52}$ .  
On that basis, the Liberal Democrats should be allocated the third seat rather than Labour. This is because their 3.42 outstanding entitlement is worth more than Labour's 3.26 and therefore awarding the seat to the Liberal Democrats keeps the overall balance of the Council nearer to the ideal  $\frac{18}{52}$  and  $\frac{6}{52}$  fractions for those two groups.