

# CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- **THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF  
THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Date of Meeting:- **22 MAY 2006**

Agenda Item No:-

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Public	Operational	Delegated: Yes
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Accompanying Comments and Statements	Required	Included
Environmental Impact Statement:	No	No
Corporate Management Team Comments:	No	No
Financial Comments:	No	No
Legal Comments:	Yes	Yes
Personnel Comments:	No	No

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Title:- **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS -  
2006/2007**

Report of:- **DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Report reference:- **LDS.30/06**

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## Summary:-

The Report informs Members of the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels for the municipal year 2006/07 and the nominations of the political groups to those seats.

## Recommendation:-

That the report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services - Appointment of Committees 2006/2007 - be received and approved, and that the allocation of seats on and the appointment of Members to the various Committees and Panels of the Council as set out in the Report and Schedules attached be approved.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS 2006/2007

### SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. Following the elections on 4 May, it is necessary for the Council at the Annual Meeting to review the allocation of the seats on Council Committees and Panels so that they reflect pro-rata the strengths of the political groups on the Council and comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
2. I have therefore calculated the seats to be allocated to the political Groups and have informed them accordingly. The method of allocation is set out in Appendix 1. Attached are Schedules showing the Groups' nominations for appointments to Committees/Panels for the Municipal year 2006/2007 in respect of the seats to be allocated to them.
3. The Committees and Panels will be appointed by the full Council at the Annual Meeting and the Council at that meeting will also, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, appoint the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. I have not circulated any advance information on proposals which may be made in respect of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of any of the other Committees or Panels as this will be a matter for the Committees themselves to decide upon. Special Meetings of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Licensing Committee are to be held immediately following the Annual Council Meeting so that Chairmen might be appointed in respect of those Committees and the Licensing Committee can appoint a number of Licensing Sub-Committees.
4. It is RECOMMENDED that the Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services - Appointment of Committees 2006/2007 - be received and approved, and that the allocation of seats on and the appointment of Members to the various Committees and Panels as set out in the Report and Schedules attached be approved.

## 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. Similarly, the Standards Committee is not to be regarded as a body to which the rules apply and the Council can allocate the seats on that Committee as it thinks fit, subject to the legislative requirements relating to independent Members and Parish Council representation on the Committee. The Licensing Committee is also exempt from the rules on political balance, although DCMS do recommend 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 the Appendix attached.

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".
- 1.3 Any seats remaining after the political groups have been allocated their shares have, under the regulations, to be given to any independent members.
2. CALCULATION OF THE GROUPS ENTITLEMENT ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS
- 2.1 There are in total 78 seats to be allocated by the Council on the Regulatory Panel, the Development Control Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Employment Panel, the newly formed Audit Committee and the Appeals Panels. The Conservative Group has 19 Members, Labour 24, the Liberal Democrats 8 and there is 1 Independent Member who is not in any political group. 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 28 seats, Labour 36 seats, the Liberal Democrats 12 seats with the 2 remaining seats left being allocated to the independent Member.
- 2.2 When the seats are allocated on each Committee the Conservatives, on a straight allocation following the rounding up/rounding down principles set out above, receive 28 seats which matches their aggregate entitlement of 28. There are no further adjustments to make, therefore, to satisfy their aggregate entitlement.
- 2.3 Adjustments have to be made to the Labour Group's allocations to get them to their aggregate entitlement of 36 seats. Following the rounding up principles mentioned above, Labour would receive 37 seats which is one more than their aggregate entitlement of 36. They therefore have to lose a seat on a Committee where they have the least fractional entitlement. This could be on either the Regulatory Panel or the Development Control Committee. They have therefore had their entitlement on the Development Control Committee rounded down to 5 seats to bring them back to their overall aggregate entitlement of 36 seats.
- 2.4 On a straight allocation, following the rounding principles, the Liberal Democrats would receive only 10 seats, which is 2 short of their aggregate entitlement of 12 seats. They have therefore been allocated their extra seats on Appeals Panels 1 and 2 which brings them up to their aggregate entitlement of 12 seats.

- 2.5 The remaining seats on the Development Control Committee and Appeals Panel 3 have been allocated to the Independent Member as required by the Regulations.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS**

1. The political balance on the full Council is:-

19 Conservatives; 24 Labour; 8 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent member

2. There are 78 seats in total on those Committees and Panels which are subject to the proportionality rules giving aggregate entitlements to the groups as follows:-

Conservative	$\frac{19}{52} \times 78 = 28.49$	28 rounded down
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Labour	$\frac{24}{52} \times 78 = 35.99$	36 rounded up
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Liberal Democrat	$\frac{8}{52} \times 78 = 11.99$	12 rounded up
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Independent	Remaining 2 seats	
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## ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS

	CONSERVATIVES	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	INDEPENDENT
Regulatory Panel (12)	(4.38) 4	(5.53) 6	(1.84) 2	-
Development Control (12)	(4.38) 4	(5.53) 5	(1.84) 2	1
Overview Management (8)	(2.92) 3	(3.69) 4	(1.23) 1	-
Overview Community (8)	(2.92) 3	(3.69) 4	(1.23) 1	-
Overview Resources (8)	(2.92) 3	(3.69) 4	(1.23) 1	-
Overview Infrastructure (8)	(2.92) 3	(3.69) 4	(1.23) 1	-
Employment Panel (6)	(2.19) 2	(2.76) 3	(0.92) 1	-
Audit Committee (7)	(2.55) 3	(3.23) 3	(1.07) 1	-
Appeals 1 (3)	(1.09) 1	(1.38) 1	(0.46) 1	-
Appeals 2 (3)	(1.09) 1	(1.38) 1	(0.46) 1	-
Appeals 3 (3)	(1.09) 1	(1.38) 1	(0.46) -	1
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b><u>28</u></b>	<b><u>36</u></b>	<b><u>12</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>

(78 seats in all)