



**Report to: Annual Council, 16th May 2017**

**Report of: Monitoring Officer**

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**Subject: POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES  
2017/18**

**1. Recommendation**

**1.1 That the Council agree the allocation of seats between political groups for the Municipal Year 2017/18.**

**2. Background**

2.1 At its meeting on 22 November 2016, Full Council resolved to change its governance system from the Cabinet model to the Committee System with effect from Annual Council on 16 May 2017.

2.2 Following the November meeting of Full Council the Monitoring Officer together with the three Group Leaders proposed the detailed design principles for the operation of the Committee system for Council's consideration at its meeting on 21 February 2017. At the meeting Full Council agreed the proposed design proposals for the operation of the Committee System.

2.3 In addition to the requirement to review the allocation of seats between political groups on Committees within the new Committee structure the City Council has a duty to review the allocation of seats to political groups at its Annual Council meeting.

2.4 A political group, as defined in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, must contain at least two Members and under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Council must adhere to the following principles when allocating seats to political groups:-

- that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
- that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership (**Gateway 1**);
- that subject to the above two principles, the number of seats on the total of all the committees of the Council allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the Full Council (**Gateway 2**);
- that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each committee of the Council allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the Full Council (**Gateway 3**).

2.5 Therefore, under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, this means that the three political groups, Conservative, Labour and Green are entitled to the following proportion of the overall number of committee places on the politically balanced committees, and as far as is practicable the same proportion of committee places on each committee:-

Conservative 48.57%

Labour 45.71%

Green 5.71%

2.6 In addition to the political balance rules, Full Council at its February meeting agreed that all members of the Council will have an opportunity to serve on at least one of the 'Policy' committees as well as one of the 'Regulatory' committees. The allocation of seats between political groups on the agreed structure of the Committee System and in accordance with the political balance rules is set out in **Appendix 1** of this report.

2.7 Group Leaders have been consulted on the proposal.

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**Background Papers:** Council Report, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 : Change of Governance Arrangements to the New Committee System

**Appendix 1**

**Political Balance on Committees and Sub-Committees 2017-18  
Compliant with Political Balance Regulations**

Committee		Overall Allocations (Gateway 2)			Allocations by Committee (Gateway 3)		
					Con Target %	Lab Target %	Green Target %
Title	New Membership	Con	Lab	Green	<b>48.57%</b>	<b>45.71%</b>	<b>5.71%</b>
Policy & Resources	13	6	6	1	46.15%	46.15%	7.69%
Communities	12	6	6	0	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Environment	12	6	5	1	50.00%	41.67%	8.33%
Planning	11	5	5	1	45.45%	45.45%	9.09%
Licensing & Environmental Health	10	5	5	0	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Audit & Governance	8	4	3	1	50.00%	37.50%	12.50%
Standards	6	3	3	0	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Actual Seats	<b>72</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>			
Actual %	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>48.61%</b>	<b>45.83%</b>	<b>5.56%</b>			
Target %	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>48.57%</b>	<b>45.71%</b>	<b>5.71%</b>			
Target Seats	<b>72</b>	35	33	4			

Group	Members	Target
Conservative	17	48.57%
Labour	16	45.71%
Green	2	5.71%