



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20 May 2010

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive

Report Title	Committee Proportionality
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1. Summary

This report seeks Council's approval of the number and Group proportionality of seats on each Committee following the Constitutional changes agreed by Council earlier in the meeting.

2. Recommendations

1. That Council approves the number of seats on each Committee as set in the report.
2. That the representation of the political groups be as set out in this report.

3. Report Background

3.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations, requires the Council, at its annual meeting, or as soon as practicable afterwards, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocation of seats (ie proportionality). The rights of the various political groups are specified in relevant regulations. Council last did this on 26 October 2009 in order to reflect the creation of the Independent Group.

3.2 In anticipation of the changes to the Council's Constitution discussed elsewhere on this agenda the leader of the majority group and the leaders of the three other political groups have considered the new situation and an agreed proposal is set out below.

3.3 The following principles need to be applied in allocating Committee places:

3.3.1 that not all seats on any Committee or Sub- Committee are allocated to the same political group;

3.3.2 that the majority of the seats on all Committees and Sub- Committees are allocated to the political group that has a majority of the Council's membership;

3.3.3 that subject to 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 above the number of seats for all main Committees which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the main Committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council; and

3.3.4 subject to 3.3.3 the numbers of seats on the individual Committees and Sub Committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of seats of that Committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to their membership of the Council.

3.4 Currently there are 88 allocated Committee places divided as 46 Liberal Democrat, 27 Conservative, 9 Labour and 6 Independent. In order to reflect the new Overview and Scrutiny arrangements and delegating Tree Preservation Order matters to General Purposes Committee it is proposed that there would be 62 Committee places allocated as 33 Liberal Democrat, 18 Conservative, 7 Labour and 4 Independent.

3.5 The allocation of seats between the Committees is as follows:

Committee	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Labour	Independent	Total
Audit	4	2	1	1	8
O&S	8	4	2	1	15
Planning	6	4	1	1	12
Licensing	6	4	1	0	11
Appoints & Appeals	4	2	1	0	7
GP	5	2	1	1	9
	33	18	7	4	62

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Resources and Risk

None specifically arising from this report.

4.2 Legal

The Council has legal obligations under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocation of seats.

4.3 Other Implications
None specifically

5. Background Papers
None

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