

Report to: **Governance Committee**

Date: **19 July 2016**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title of report: **Appointment to committees, sub-committees, panels and other bodies**

Purpose of report: **To consider the allocation of places on committees, sub-committees, panels and other bodies to the six political and independent groups**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Governance Committee recommends the County Council to:

- (1) allocate to political and independent groups the places on, and membership of, the main committees as set out in Appendix 1; and**
 - (2) agree to continue to waive the requirement for political balance in relation to those committees where the Council agreed it be waived at its meeting on 10 May 2016**
-

1. Supporting Information

1.1 In appointing members to committees the Council must comply with section 15 of the Local Government Act 1989 and subsequent Regulations. These provide that places on committees must be allocated to political groups in proportion to the number of seats on the Council held by each group, unless there is agreement, without dissent, that the provisions of the Act should not be applied.

1.2 The allocation of places to party groups must, so far as is reasonably practicable, give effect to the following principles:

- (a) not all of the seats on the body can be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) where more than half the members of the Council belong to one political group, that group shall have a majority on all committees, sub-committees, etc;
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the total number of seats on the ordinary committees (including sub-committees) allocated to a political group reflects that group's proportion of the members of the Council;
- (d) subject to (a), (b) and (c) above, the number of seats on each body allocated to a political group reflects the proportion of the seats on the Council held by the group.

1.3 The rules require seats to be allocated on a proportional basis "so far as practicable" and inevitably there must be some rounding up and rounding down. It is open to the Council to review the size and number of committees and sub-committees at any time.

1.4 Members of the Cabinet may not serve on the Scrutiny Committees or the Regulatory Committee and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council may not serve on the Standards Committee.

1.5 The Leader of the Council appoints the Cabinet and allocates portfolios to those Cabinet Members. Political balance provisions do not apply to the Cabinet

1.6 The principle in paragraph 1.2 (c) above applies to appointments to ordinary committees (including sub-committees). Accordingly, before considering the allocation of places to political groups the Committee will need to consider whether it wishes to recommend any changes in committees, including their size.

2. Allocation of seats

2.1 In order to best achieve the principles set out in paragraph 1.2 it is proposed that the UKIP Group's representation on the Regulatory Committee and Standards Committee are reduced by one seat on each Committee and that the Conservative Group's on both these committees increases by one seat.

2.2 The tables in Appendix 1 show the proposed allocation of seats for the remainder of 2016/17. The proposals in relation to the committees, their total membership and the number of seats on each to which the groups will be entitled follows the principles set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The Committee is asked to recommend the County Council to agree the allocation of places on each committee to each group as set out in Appendix 1 and to continue to waive the requirement for political balance in relation to those committees where the County Council agreed it be waived at its meeting on 10 May 2016.

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Andy Cottell Tel: 01273 481955

Local Member: All

Background Documents: None

Appendix 1

Group	Number of Councillors	%	Number of seats
Conservative	21	43	34
Liberal Democrat	10	21	16
Labour	7	14	12
UKIP	6	12	10
Independent Democrat Group	2	4	3
Independent	3	6	4
Total	49	100%	79

COMMITTEE	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Labour	UKIP	Independent Democrat Group	Independent Group
Number of councillors	21	10	7	6	2	3
Regulatory (18)	7.71 (8)	3.67 (3)	2.57 (3)	2.20 (2)	0.73 (1)	1.10 (1)
Planning (7)	3.01 (3)	1.43 (2)	1.00 (1)	0.86 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (0)
Governance (5)	2.14 (2)	1.02 (1)	0.71 (1)	0.61 (1)	0.20 (0)	0.31 (0)
Standards Committee (7)	3.01 (3)	1.43 (1)	1.00 (1)	0.86 (0)	0.29 (1)	0.43 (1)
Pension Committee (5)	2.14 (2)	1.02 (1)	0.71 (1)	0.61 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (0)
Scrutiny Committees:						
Audit, Best Value and Community Services(7)	3.01 (3)	1.43 (2)	1.00 (1)	0.86 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (0)
Children's Services (9)	3.86 (4)	1.84 (2)	1.29 (1)	1.10 (1)	0.37 (1)	0.55 (0)
Health Overview & Scrutiny (7)	3.01 (3)	1.43 (1)	1.00 (1)	0.86 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (1)
Adult Social Care & Community Safety (7)	3.01 (3)	1.43 (1)	1.00 (1)	0.86 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (1)
Economy, Transport and Environment (7)	3.01 (3)	1.43 (2)	1.00 (1)	0.86 (1)	0.29 (0)	0.43 (0)
TOTALS (79)	34	16	12	10	3	4