

Chichester District Council

THE ANNUAL COUNCIL

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Review of Political Balance 2018-2019

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

2.1. That the review of political balance arrangements set out below be approved and Tables 1, 2 and 3 be applied in making appointments to committees.

3. Context

3.1. The Council has a duty at its annual meeting, under section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (LGHA 1989), to review the representation of different political groups in line with the political balance rules set out in the LGHA 1989 and subordinate regulations. This provides the framework for the appointments to committees, which is the next item on the agenda.

4. The rules and their Application

4.1. The composition of the Council is as follows:

Conservatives	=	39 (81.25%)
Liberal Democrats	=	5 (10.42%)
Independent Group	=	4 (8.33%)
Total:		<u>48</u>

4.2. Many of the seats on committees have to be allocated in accordance with the rules of political balance. The following principles apply, so far as reasonably practicable. They are applied in descending order of importance, and are quoted in plain English rather than wording taken directly from the statute:

- (a) Not all seats on the committee are allocated to the same political group.
- (b) The majority party has a majority of the seats on each committee.
- (c) Each political group is entitled to its proportion of the **total** number of seats on **all** the ordinary committees added together, according to the proportion the group holds of seats on the full Council
- (d) Subject to (c) above, each political group is entitled to its proportion of the number of seats on each individual committee.

4.3. The four ordinary committees concerned are:

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee	10 seats
Planning Committee	15 seats
General Licensing Committee	15 seats

Standards

7 seats
Total 47 seats

4.4 Total seats due to:

the Conservatives is: $47 \times 81.25\% = 38$ seats
the Liberal Democrats is: $47 \times 10.42\% = 5$ seats
the Independent Group is: $47 \times 8.33\% = 4$ seats

4.5 If these proportions are applied to individual committees, the results are as in Table 1:

Table 1: Entitlement

<i>Figures in brackets are the numbers for 2017-18</i>	Conservatives	Lib Dems	Independents
Corporate Governance & Audit Committee (10)	8.13 or 8 (8)	1.04 or 1 (1)	0.83 or 1 (1)
Planning Committee (15)	12.19 or 12 (13)	1.56 or 2 (1)	1.25 or 1 (1)
General Licensing Committee (15)	12.19 or 12 (13)	1.56 or 2 (1)	1.25 or 1 (1)
Standards Committee (7)	5.69 or 6 (6)	0.73 or 0 (1)	0.58 or 1 (0)
Total seats	38 (40)	5 (4)	4 (3)

4.6 The Conservatives are therefore entitled to two less seats (to reduce their seats from the current 40 to 38 seats) and the Liberal Democrats are entitled to an increase in their seats from the current 4 to 5 seats. The Independents are entitled to one more seat from 3 to 4. Due to the rounding above, all groups have fractions of seats on the Standards Committee that would normally be rounded up. However, in order to maintain the number of seats on that committee at 7 and to maintain the total seats per group, the Liberal Democrat figure of 0.73 must be rounded down to zero and the Independent figure of 0.58 must be rounded up. Alternatively the Liberal Democrat group may forgo a seat to the Independent group on either the Planning Committee or General Licensing Committee to secure a seat on Standards.

4.7 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is not included in the list above but the seats on it still need to be allocated to parties in the proportion of seats that they have on the whole Council.

Table 2: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Entitlement

<i>Figures in brackets are the current numbers</i>	Conservatives	Lib Dems	Independents
Overview and Scrutiny (15)	12.19 or 12 (13)	1.56 or 2 (1)	1.25 or 1 (1)

4.8 The Conservatives are therefore entitled to one less seat (to reduce their seats from the current 13 to 12 seats) and the Liberal Democrats are entitled to an increase in their seats from the current 1 to 2 seats.

4.9 The various committees and panels concerned with discipline and dismissal of senior staff also are not ordinary committees, but still need to be allocated to parties in the proportion of seats that they have on the whole Council.

Table 3: Disciplinary Committees Entitlement

<i>Figures in brackets are the current numbers</i>	Conservatives	Lib Dems	Independents
Investigation and Disciplinary Committee (5+2 subs)	5.69 or 6 (6)	0.73 or 0 (1)	0.58 or 1 (0)
Appeals Committee (5 + 2 subs)	5.69 or 6 (6)	0.73 or 1 (1)	0.58 or 0 (0)

4.10 In order to ensure equality the Liberal Democrats and Independents are entitled to one seat each on the two disciplinary committees.

4.11 The political groups' regulations do not apply at all to the Cabinet, the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Committee established under the Licensing Act 2003, and the Independent/Parish Remuneration Panels.

4.12 Generally the Council is obliged to appoint to the committees the members proposed by the respective political groups (section 16(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989). However, the Council does not have to adhere to the political groups regulations if:-

- (i) a political group does not use up its allocation (regulations 13 to 15); or
- (ii) notice of alternative proposed allocations is given to all members and no member objects (Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulation 20); or
- (iii) an area committee covers an area or population which is less than 40% of the total and the committee members are drawn from that area (regulation 16A) (This Council has no area committees).

5. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		x
Climate Change		x
Human Rights and Equality Impact		x
Safeguarding and Early Help		x

6. **Appendices** – None.

7. **Background Papers** - None