

Agenda Item 9

Revised Appendices 2 and 3 - Options for remaining committee places

Background

The original Appendices 2 and 3 were based on one non-grouped councillor wishing to take up any seats on committees that remained unallocated once all groups had received their full proportional entitlement of seats.

This was reflected in the political balance calculation in the original Appendix 2 and the committee nominations in the original Appendix 3, which showed one non-grouped councillor being allocated two seats (on Audit and Governance and Standards Committee).

This councillor has subsequently declined to take up these seats.

Calculations

1. The political balance has been recalculated excluding all three non-grouped councillors and revised appendices 2 and 3 have been tabled.

Seats are now allocated to groups as follows:

	Labour	Lib Dem	Green	Ind	Total
Proportional entitlement	54.4	14.4	3.2	0	72
Rounded entitlement (change from original Appendix 2)	54 (+1)	14 (0)	3 (0)	0 (-2)	71 (-1)

This gives a total entitlement of 71 seats to groups, an under-allocation of 1 seat.

2. In the original Appendix 2 Labour Group was allocated 53 seats, so the allocation of 54 seats represents an increase of one seat:

The Labour Group gains a seat on either the **Audit and Governance Committee** or the **Standards Committee** – to be chosen by **the Labour Group** and **appointment made**

3. There is then a tie for the remaining unallocated seat to which no group has a clear proportional entitlement. Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the number of seats on committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total number of seats on committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority. This will not be possible in this case as Labour and the Lib Dem Groups both have an equal 0.4 minority entitlement to the final seat, while the Green Group only has a 0.2 entitlement. For all seats to be allocated either the Labour Group or Lib Dem Group must be allocated their overall proportional entitlement of seats plus one.

The unallocated seat on **the remaining committee** – to be **allocated by Council** to either the Labour Group or the Lib Dem Group and **appointment made**

Agenda Item 9

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) notes the decision of the Labour Group to choose an unallocated seat (on either the Audit and Governance Committee or the Standards Committee);
and
- b) allocates the unallocated seat on the other committee to either the Labour Group or the Liberal Democrat Group in accordance with the agreement of Group Leaders; **or if there is no agreement between the Group Leaders**, allocates the remaining seat by the drawing of lots; and
- c) delegates authority to the Committee and Member Services Manager to fill vacant appointments to these two and any other vacant seats in accordance with the instructions of the relevant Group Leaders