

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
25 MARCH 1998**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989: REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF
SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 1998/99
(Corporate Services - Administration)**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review the allocation of seats to party groups at the annual meeting. This report proposes the arrangements for the allocation of seats and appointments to Committees for 1998/99.

2 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

- 2.1 Legal Powers: Section 15, Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 2.2 Finance: Not relevant

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **To confirm that the total number of seats on ordinary committees appointed by the Council shall be 106 and that such seats shall be allocated to party groups as follows:-**

Conservative Group - 60 Labour Group - 46

- 3.2 **To appoint Members to serve on Committees (nominations to be circulated in advance).**

Name of Committee	Number of Members	Allocation to Groups	Substitute Members
Strategy & Policy Committee	16	9 : 7	3 : 3
Education Committee	17 *	10 # : 7	3 : 3
Leisure Services Committee	16	9 : 7	3 : 3
Planning & Transportation Committee	16	9 : 7	3 : 3
Public & Environmental Services Committee	16	9 : 7	3 : 3
Social Services and Housing Committee	16	9 : 7	3 : 3
Direct Services Board	9	5 : 4	3 : 3
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	
	106	60 : 46	

* *does not include the 2 voting representatives nominated by Oxford and Portsmouth Diocesan Councils.*

includes an additional majority group member to comply with the statutory requirement that the majority group shall have a majority of seats on each committee.

3.3 To adopt the following formula for the allocation of seats on sub committees to be appointed by committees.

Number of Members	Allocation of Seats
3	2 : 1
5	3 : 2
9	5 : 4
20 *	12 : 8

* *Planning Control Sub Committee*

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 introduced Regulations in order to ensure that the political balance on committees reflects the political complexion of the Council. In order to achieve this the Council is required to observe the following principles as far as practicable in making appointments to ordinary committees, i.e.:-

- (a) no committee should comprise members drawn from one political group only;
- (b) the majority of seats on each committee should be allocated to a political group if the number of members of the group is a majority of the authority's membership;
- (c) subject to satisfying (a) and (b) above, the total number of seats allocated to each political group on all ordinary committees should reflect the political balance of the Council; and
- (d) subject to (a)-(c) above, the number of seats on each committee allocated to each political group should reflect the political balance of the Council.

4.2 The above four principles apply to all committees appointed by the Council and to sub committees appointed by those committees.

4.3 The recommendations in Section 3 above will allow the Council to maintain the current size and political balance on its committees in 1998/99, with one exception. This is the Education Committee, where the addition of two voting church representatives places a requirement on the Council to review the allocation of seats on the Education Committee. In order to satisfy the statutory requirement that the majority of seats on the committee should be allocated to the majority group, the Conservative Group should be allocated an additional, tenth, seat on the Committee.

4.4 The total number of committee seats available to the two groups is thus increased to 106. Following the principles set out in paragraph 4.1 above, the seats should be allocated in the following proportions:

Conservative 57.5% - Labour 42.5%

An allocation of 60 Conservative and 46 Labour seats is appropriate as it brings both parties to within 1% of their respective proportions on the full Council.

- 4.5 Committees are also required to observe political proportionality when setting the membership of Sub Committees and the formula by which this should be done is set out at recommendation 3.3 above.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

Peter Driver - Extension 2260

Doc.Ref.

k/c/c/25.3.98/annexeA.doc