

Establishment of Committees and Review of Political Proportionality

Purpose

To appoint the Council's committees for the municipal year 2018/19 and to agree their size and their proportionality.

Background

1. The Council is asked to appoint the committees it requires for the next municipal year, agree their size, to review formally the proportional political allocation of places on committees and to adopt a scheme of proportionality for the municipal year 2018/19.
2. The committees which it is proposed to establish for the 2018/19 municipal year, and their proposed size, are set out at Annex A. It also sets out the political proportionality overall.

Political Proportionality

3. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to review annually committee membership and political representation. By law, seats on committees must be allocated in proportion to the political composition of the Council. Only with no councillor voting against such a decision, can an authority decide that it wishes to adopt an arrangement other than a proportional one.
4. Currently 2 groups exist: the Conservative Group and the Others Group. The number of seats of each group on the Council and the resulting percentages are as follows:

Conservative

35

87.50%

Others Group

5

12.50%

5. In determining the allocation of seats on committees, the proportion that each political group forms of the total membership of the Council is applied to the total number of elected councillor seats on each committee. Fractional entitlements of less than one half are rounded down and entitlements of one half or more are rounded up. So that this process of rounding does not result in disproportionate advantage to one political group, the aggregate membership of all the committees must also be in line with the proportions on the Council.

Options

6. The Council must establish a Licensing Committee and at least one scrutiny committee (overview and scrutiny). It is for the Council to decide what other committees it wishes to establish for the discharge of its functions and good governance.
7. The Council has no option but to achieve political proportionality. Where it is not possible to achieve absolute proportionality for each committee, the scheme agreed must achieve overall proportionality across all the committees of the Council.

Proposal

8. It is proposed that the committees listed in Annex A be appointed with the composition shown. The Annex incorporates a scheme of proportionality for 2018/19. This scheme achieves the required balance between the two political groups on the Council.

Resources Implications

9. There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

10. The Council is advised to RESOLVE that
 - (i) the committees as set out at Annex A be appointed with the committee sizes shown; and
 - (ii) the scheme of proportionality as set out at Annex A be adopted for 2018/19.

Background Papers: None

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