

Review of Political Proportionality

Portfolio:	Non-executive function
Ward(s) Affected:	n/a

Purpose

To review the political proportionality of committees.

Background

1. As a result of a change in the division of members into political groups, the Council is asked to review the proportional political allocation of places on committees and to adopt a revised scheme of proportionality.
2. Annex A sets out the political proportionality for committees and the overall political proportionality.

Political Proportionality

3. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires seats on committees to 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. Where there has been a change in the division of members into political groups, local authorities are required to review political proportionality as soon as practical.
4. The number of seats of each group on the Council and the resulting percentages are now as follows:

<u>Conservative Group</u>	<u>Others Group</u>	<u>Ungrouped</u>
34 85%	5 12.5%	1 2.5%

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

7. The Council has no option but to review political proportionality as a result of the change in the division of members into political groups. 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.
8. The Executive is not required to be proportionally balanced.

Proposal

9. The Council, at its meeting on 16 May 2018, appointed the committees as set out at Annex A with the committee sizes shown.
10. The Annex incorporates a revised scheme of proportionality for 2018/19 to reflect the changes in group membership. This scheme achieves the required balance between the two political groups and the ungrouped councillor on the Council.
11. The Conservative Leader's Group nominations in respect of its revised memberships of the Committees will be announced at the meeting.

Resources Implications

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

Recommendation

11. The Council is advised to RESOLVE that the revised scheme of proportionality as set out at Annex A be adopted.

Background Papers: None

Author: Rachel Whillis - Democratic Services Manager
rachel.whillis@surreyheath.gov.uk

Executive Head of Service: Richard Payne – Executive Head of Corporate