

By: Director of Governance and Law
To: County Council – 6 April 2011
Subject: Proposed Revised Committee Structure and Proportionality
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report invites the County Council to agree the new proposed committee structure, the revised total number of Committee places and the allocation of those places between the political groups as recommended by the Selection and Member Services Committee.

FOR DECISION

Composition of the County Council

1. (1) The current composition of the County Council is set out in the table below:

Political Group	Number of seats	Proportion of seats
Conservative	73	87% (86.90%)
Liberal Democrat	7	8% (8.33%)
Labour	3	4% (3.57%)
Other	1	1% (1.19%)
Total	84	100%

Revisions to the County Council's Committee Structure

2. (1) Selection and Member Services Committee, which met on 22 March 2011 has recommended a revised Committee structure for the County Council, as follows:

- (a) the three Children, Families and Education Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees (POSCs) would be replaced by the Education, Learning and Skills POSC;
- (b) the Adult Social Services POSC would be replaced by an Adult Social Services & Public Health POSC and a Specialist Children's Services POSC; and
- (c) the Communities POSC would become the Customer and Communities POSC

(2) The net effect of these changes would be to reduce the number of POSCs by 1. This would bring about a consequent reduction in the overall number of Committee places to be allocated from 230 to 218.

(3) The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires Committee places to be allocated between the political groups in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) the group with the majority of seats on the Council is allowed to have a majority of seats on each Committee;
- (b) subject to (a) above, the number of seats on the total of all Committees allocated to any political group must be proportional to the number of seats which that group holds on the County Council;
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on each Committee allocated to any political group must be proportional to the number of seats which that group holds on the County Council;

(4) The Table below shows how the total number of seats would be allocated within the new proposed structure.

(5) The Liberal Democrat Group has currently 1 more seat than it is entitled to because places on the Flood Risk Management Committee were allocated initially according to a calculation for the Committee with no reference being made to overall proportionality. The County Council agreed on 17 January 2011 to vary the proportionality rules so that the Liberal Democrat Group retained its place on this Committee.

(6) Entitlement to places on Select Committees and Panels is unaffected by the proposed changes.

Committee	Con	Lib Dem	Lab	Independent	Total	Non KCC
Cabinet Scrutiny Committee	11 (11.30)	1 (1.08)	1 (0.46)	1 (0.15)	13 + 1	*5
Corporate Policy Overview Committee	11 (10.42)	1 (1.00)	0 (0.43)	0 (0.14)	12	
Adult Social Services and Public Health POSC	11 (11.30)	1 (1.08)	1 (0.46)	0 (0.15)	13	
Customer and Communities POSC	10 (10.42)	1 (1.00)	1 (0.43)	0 (0.14)	12	
Education, Learning and Skills POSC	11 (10.42)	1 (1.00)	1 (0.46)	0 (0.15)	13	@ 11
Specialist Children's Services POSC	10 (10.42)	1 (1.00)	1 (0.43)	0 (0.14)	12	
Environment, Highways and Waste POSC	11 (10.42)	1 (1.00)	0 (0.43)	0 (0.14)	12	
Regeneration and Economic Development	11 (10.42)	1 (1.00)	0 (0.43)	0 (0.14)	12	

POSC						
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10 (10.42)	1 (1.00)	1 (0.43)	0 (0.14)	12	4 \$
Scrutiny Board	9 (8.69)	1 (0.83)	0 (0.36)	0 (0.12)	10	+
Governance and Audit Committee	12 (11.30)	1 (1.08)	0 (0.46)	0 (0.15)	13	
Electoral & Boundary Review Committee	7 (6.95)	1 (0.66)	0 (0.29)	0 (0.10)	8	
Personnel Committee	6 (6.95)	1 (0.66)	1 (0.29)	0 (0.10)	8	
Planning Applications Committee	16 (14.77)	1 (1.41)	0 (0.61)	1 (0.20)	17+1	
Regulation Committee	15 (13.90)	1 (1.33)	0 (0.57)	1 (0.20)	16 +1	
Selection and Member Services Committee	7 (7.82)	1 (0.75)	1 (0.31)	0 (0.11)	9	
Superannuation Fund Committee	7 (6.95)	1 (0.66)	0 (0.29)	0 (0.10)	8	3 (1/1/1) #
Children's Champions Board	7 (6.95)	1 (0.66)	0 (0.29)	0 (0.10)	8	
Flood Risk Management Committee	6 (6.08)	1 (0.58)	0 (0.25)	0 (0.08)	7	
TOTAL	188	19	8	3	218	
Proportionate Share of Total	189 (188.57)	18 (18.08)	8 (7.75)	3 (2.58)	218 (+3)	
Difference to Proportionate share	-1	+1	0	0		

* 3 diocesan representatives and 2 parent governor representatives with voting powers on education issues only.

@ 3 Diocesan representatives, 2 parent governor representatives and 6 Teacher representatives.

+ To include the Chairmen of the preceding nine Committees (as agreed previously by the County Council).

\$ 4 District Council representatives with voting powers.

3 District Council Members with voting powers (1 from each of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour Parties).

Sub-Committees	Con	LD	Lab	Ind/un-allocated	Non KCC	Total
Select Committees	7	1	0	0		8
Regulation Committee Panels (School-related Appeals (mainly Transport); Enforcement, Public Rights of Way, Marriage Premises, Village/Town Greens, Mental health Guardianship)	4	1	0	0		5
Advisory Boards	Con	LD	Lab	Ind/un-allocated	Non KCC	Total
Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board	7	1	0	0		8
School Organisation Advisory Board	7	1	0	0		8

(7) In respect of the Regulation Committee Member Panels, the Chairman of the Regulation Committee has requested that a place be offered to the Independent Member of that Committee whenever either the Conservative or Liberal Democrat Groups offers to give up a place.

(8) Selection and Member Services Committee agreed at its meeting on 22 March 2011 to recommend these proposed changes to the County Council for approval.

Recommendations

4. (1) The County Council is invited to agree:
 - (a) the revised Committee structure and proportionality calculations, including the establishment of the Education, Learning and Skills POSC; the Adult Social Services & Public Health POSC; the Specialist Children's Services POSC; and the Customer and Communities POSC.
 - (b) that the Independent Member of the Regulation Committee be offered a seat on one of its Panels whenever either the Conservative or Liberal Democrat Group elect to give up a place.

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