

By: Head of Democratic Services
To: County Council – 26 January 2017
Subject: Revised Proportionality Calculations and Committee Membership
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Mr B Neaves has informed me that he has resigned from the UKIP Group and that he will now serve as an Independent Member. The County Council is invited to agree the revised allocation of committee places between the political groups.

FOR DECISION

Composition of the County Council

1. (1) As a result of Mr B Neaves' resignation from the UKIP Group, the composition of the County Council is now as follows:

	<i>Number of seats</i>	<i>Proportion of seats</i>
Conservative	47	55.95%
UKIP	14	16.67%
Labour	12	14.29%
Liberal Democrat	7	8.33%
Independents Group	2	2.38%
Independent (Mr J Elenor)	1	1.19%
Independent (Mr B Neaves)	1	1.19%

Committee Appointments

2. In order to reconstitute the Council's committees in accordance with the committee structure set out in the Constitution, the County Council is invited to agree the revised allocation of committee places between the political groups.

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 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 Council.

4. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 only gives an entitlement to political groups to have seats on committees. A 'political group' is defined as two or more Members who inform the Proper Officer that they wish to be regarded as a political group and have a leader. Mr Neaves does not have an automatic right to any seats on committees. The Council previously decided that the two seats on the Council's committees which could have been offered to Mr J Elenor when he became an Independent Member would stand un-allocated as they could not be allocated to any of the five political groups.

5. In the table set out below, the **current** representation on each Committee is given in bold, whilst the figure in brackets shows the proportionality figure to the nearest hundredth of a decimal point that each group **would now be** entitled to if the proportionality principles were to be applied to each committee.

Committee	Con	UKIP	Lab	LD	Ind Gp	Ind (Vacant)	Ind (Vacant)
Scrutiny	(6.15) 6	(1.83) 2	(1.57) 2	(0.92) 1	(0.26) 0	(0.13) 0	(0.13) 0
Health Overview and Scrutiny	(7.27) 8	(2.17) 2	(1.86) 2	(1.08) 1	(0.31) 0	(0.15) 0	(0.15) 0
Governance and Audit	(8.39) 8	(2.50) 3	(2.14) 2	(1.25) 1	(0.36) 1	(0.18) 0	(0.18) 0
Electoral & Boundary Review	(5.04) 5	(1.34) 1	(1.29) 1	(0.75) 1	(0.21) 0	(0.11) 1 Vac	(0.11) 0
Personnel	(5.04) 5	(1.50) 2	(1.29) 1	(0.75) 1	(0.21) 0	(0.11) 0	(0.11) 0
Planning Applications	(10.63) 10	(3.17) 4	(2.72) 3	(1.58) 1	(0.45) 1	(0.23) 0	(0.23) 0
Regulation	(9.51) 10	(2.83) 3	(2.43) 3	(1.42) 0	(0.40) 1	(0.20) 0	(0.20) 0
Selection and Member Services	(5.04) 5	(1.50) 2	(1.29) 1	(0.75) 1	(0.21) 0	(0.11) 0	(0.11) 0
Corporate Parenting Panel	(5.04.) 5	(1.50) 2	(1.29) 1	(0.75) 1	(0.21) 0	(0.11) 0	(0.11) 0
Superannuation Fund	(5.04) 5	(1.34) 1	(1.29) 1	(0.75) 1	(0.21) 0	(0.11) 1 Vac	(0.11) 0
Kent Flood Risk Management	(3.92) 4	(1.50) 1	(1.00) 1	(0.58) 1	(0.17) 0	(0.08) 0	(0.08) 0
Standards	(3.92) 4	(1.17) 1	(1.00) 1	(0.58) 1	(0.17) 0	(0.08) 0	(0.08) 0
TOTAL Entitlement	(74.97) 75	(22.38) 22	(19.15) 19	(11.16) 11	(3.19) 3	(1.60) 2 Vac	(1.60) 2 Vac

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Con</i>	<i>UKIP</i>	<i>Lab</i>	<i>LD</i>	<i>Ind Gp</i>	<i>Ind (Vacant)</i>	<i>Ind (Vacant)</i>
Current TOTAL	75	24	19	11	3	2 Vac	0
Difference to Proportionate share	0	0	0	0	0	-2	-2

6. As a result of Mr Neaves' resignation from the UKIP Group, there are two committee places which the County Council must choose either to allocate to Mr Neaves or to hold vacant. If the Council decides to follow its previously agreed practice in respect of Mr Elenor, it would be a matter for the UKIP Group which seats it wished to give up, except that it cannot give up a seat on either of the Superannuation Fund Committee or the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee as there is already 1 vacancy on each of these Committees which arose when Mr J Elenor became an Independent Member.

7. With the exception of the changes set out above, all the other entitlements to committee places remain unaffected, and all apparent mathematical anomalies have previously been explained to and agreed by the County Council. Likewise, proportionality figures for sub-committees and panels are unaffected by Mr Neaves' resignation.

Recommendations

8. The Council is invited to agree that the UKIP Group should give up a seat on 2 of the County Council Committees (except for the Superannuation Fund Committee and the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee).

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Background Documents – none