

POLITICAL BALANCE REPORT.

Relevant Portfolio Holder	N/A
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non key

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed political balance of the Council's Committees. Members should note that a decision in respect of this matter is required if the Council agree to introduce an Electoral Matters Committee.
- 1.2 Once the Council has agreed the political balance, the Leaders of each of the Political Groups on the Council can nominate to the places on the Electoral Matters Committee. It is not proposed in this report that the membership of the Council's other Committees should be changed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is requested to RESOLVE that

- 1) the political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out in paragraph 3.5;**
- 2) the arrangement where the seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are not allocated in accordance with the political balance requirements be continued;**
- 2) the arrangement where the seats on the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel are not allocated in accordance with the political balance requirements be continued;**
- 4) appointments by political group leaders to the places on the Electoral Matters Committee be approved;**
- 5) the Council appoints a Chair and a Vice-Chair of the Electoral Matters Committee.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

3.2 With the exception of the Executive Committee, the Council is required by law and / or its own constitution to allocate places on its main Committees in accordance with its political make-up and to approve the Committee terms of reference. The main requirements are that:

- the number of seats on each Committee allocated to each Political Group reflects the proportion it holds of the total number of seats on the Council;
- the Group with the majority of seats on the Council should hold the majority of seats on each Committee.

3.3 The definition of a Political Group for these purposes is that it has a minimum of 2 members. The composition of the Council is 17 Conservative and 12 Labour.

3.4 The Council is able to decide not to allocate places in accordance with political balance and has done this for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a number of years. The convention is that the Members who take the majority of seats on the Committee are not from the controlling political group. However, this decision can only take effect if no Councillor votes against it. A similar arrangement has been made for the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel, which is a sub-committee of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3.5 The table overleaf shows the political balance based on current sizes of Committees together with the proposed number of members to be appointed to the Electoral Matters Committee in accordance with political balance requirements:

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council

25th February 2019

Committee	Total places	Conservative Group Places – entitled to 31	Labour Group Places – entitled to 22
Audit, Governance & Standards	9	5 (5.28)	4 (3.72)
Licensing	11	6 (6.45)	5 (4.55)
Planning	9	5 (5.28)	4 (3.72)
Overview and Scrutiny	9	5 (5.28) Take 4*	4 (3.72) Take 5*
Crime and Disorder Panel	5	3 (2.93) Take 2*	2 (2.07) Take 3*
Employment Appeals Committee	5	3 (2.93)	2 (2.07)
Statutory Officers Disciplinary Panel	5	3 (2.93)	2 (2.07)
Appointments Committee	5	3 (2.93)	2 (2.07)
Shareholders' Committee	5	3 (2.93)	2 (2.07)
Electoral Matters Committee	5	3 (2.93)	2 (2.07)
Total	68	Mathematical calculation results in 40 places (Take 37 where political balance rules are suspended for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel and the Leader has decided not to take up the one extra remaining seat)	Mathematical calculation results in 28 places. (Take 31 where political balance rules are suspended for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel and the Leader has decided not to take up the one extra remaining seat)

* Members are asked to note that if, as in May 2018, Members choose to suspend the political balance arrangements for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel these will be the allocated places.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 Once the Council has agreed the allocation of seats to the main Committees, the leaders of each political group will nominate members to be appointed to the Shareholders' Committee. It is planned to have a list of the nominations available for noting at the Council meeting.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no specific high level risks arising from this report.

5. APPENDICES

None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Committee Appointments Report, 21st May 2018.
Political Balance Report, 17th September 2018.
Political Balance Report , 19th November 2018.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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