

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Interim Head of Democratic Services	Report Number: C/37/16
To: Annual Council	Date of Meeting: 29 June 2016

POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES

1. Purpose of Report

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council at its meeting on 28 April 2016 agreed to the sizes and numerical allocation of seats to the various groups and to the composition of Committees.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.2 That Committee seats be allocated as set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Significant Business Risk No. 1 – Political and Managerial Leadership. Key risks are set out below.

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Members not appointed and Committee not quorate	Very low	Critical	Discussions already held with Group Leaders

6. Consultations

- 6.1 Consultations have been undertaken with Group Leaders and other relevant Members.

7. Equality Analysis

- 7.1 Good governance, democratic, sound and transparent decision-making should enable potential inequalities to become apparent and should therefore be more obviously addressed.

8. **Shared Service/Partnership Implications**

8.1 There are no shared service implications.

9. **Implications for the Joint Strategic Plan**

9.1 Good governance, democratic, sound and transparent decision-making will ensure that the Joint Strategic Plan is delivered in an optimum fashion.

10. **Key Information**

10.1 Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 where a local authority is grouped for Committee composition purposes, the Authority is required to make arrangements to ensure that its Committees share the same political balance as the full Council.

10.2 The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 allow ungrouped members to receive committee seats if any are left over once allocations have been made to the political groups in proportion to their membership of the authority. The political groups of Mid Suffolk make up 100% of the Council and therefore all of the politically balanced Committee seats go to political groups with the exception of the allocation for the one vacant seat.

10.3 At the By Election for the Barking and Somersham ward held on 2 June 2016 , Anne Killett was elected for the Green Party. Following the By Election there is a requirement for the Council to carry out a recalculation of the allocation of seats on committees and joint committees.

10.4 The current Committee structure has 61 available seats which go to political groups.

10.5 The first step, therefore, is for the Council to approve the numerical allocation of Committee seats, and the calculation in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 is shown in Appendix 1 to this report. The calculation provides for 61 Committee seats to the various groups as follows:-

Conservative and Independent	-	46 seats
Green and Independent	-	9 seats
Liberal Democrat	-	6 seats

10.6 Members of the Regulatory Committee automatically serve on the Licensing Act 2003 Committee.

10.7 Members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee automatically serve on the Mid Suffolk Scrutiny Committee.

10.8 Members of the Joint Audit and Standards Committee automatically serve on the Mid Suffolk Audit Committee.

10.9 Discussions are on-going with Group Leaders on the allocation of seats and the current situation is reflected in Appendix 2. Any further updates will be provided at the meeting.

11. **Appendices**

Title	Location
Appendix 1 – Size of Committee and numerical allocation	Attached
Appendix 2 – Composition of Committees	Attached

12. **Background Documents**

None.

Jeanette McGarry
Interim Head of Democratic Services

Tel: 01473 825891
Email: Jeanette.mcgarry@babermidsuffolk.gov.uk