

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Temporary Assistant Director – Law and Governance	Report Number: MC/17/4
To: Annual Council	Date of Meeting: 22 May 2017

POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES

1. Purpose of Report

Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, a Local Authority is under a duty to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups at every annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. In addition, the composition of Committees must be approved at Annual Council each year.

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 The approval of the recommendations will ensure compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Significant Business Risk No. 5c – Failure to develop clear governance arrangements that enable the right decisions to be taken that are appropriate for the environment that we are operating in. Key risks are set out below.

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Sufficient members are not appointed and the Committee is inquorate and unable to take decisions.	1 – Highly unlikely	3 - Bad	Early discussions with Group Leaders regarding Committee placements

6. **Consultations**

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

7. **Equality Analysis**

7.1 Good governance and 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**

Good governance and democratic, sound and transparent decision-making support the delivery of the Joint Strategic Plan.

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.

10.3 The current Committee structure has 43 available seats which go to political groups.

10.4 Separate items on the composition of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Standards Board and the Shared Revenues Partnership Committee appear elsewhere on the agenda.

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 49 Committee seats to the various groups as follows:-

Conservative and Independent	-	37 seats
Green	-	7 seats
Liberal Democrats	-	5 seats

10.6 Discussions are on-going with Group Leaders on the allocation of seats and therefore Appendix 2 – Composition of Committees will be tabled at the meeting.

11. Appendices

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

12. Background Documents

None.

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