

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Council

**DATE:** 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR DECISION**

#### **REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PLACES AND APPOINTMENTS**

##### 1 **Purpose of Report**

To review the allocation of seats on Committees and make appointments to the revised allocation.

##### 2. **Recommendations**

The Council is requested to resolve:

- (a) That the political balance of the Council as set out in Paragraph 5.3 be noted.
- (b) That the revised allocation of seats on Committees be agreed [Appendix 2]
- (c) That appointments be made to the revised allocation of seats in accordance with Group wishes.

##### 3. **Community Strategy Priorities**

Effective, transparent and democratic decision making processes are an essential pre-requisite to the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

##### 4. **Other Implications**

- 4.1 The recommendations within this report meet legal requirements. The relevant law in respect of this matter is set out in Sections 15-17 (inclusive) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the Act) and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended). The Act requires that the review should be held at the Annual Meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting or when the membership of the Council changes. The Monitoring Officer has a statutory responsibility for ensuring the council implements proportionality correctly.
- 4.2 The basic principles for allocating places on committees between political groups are:-
  - (a) That not all of the seats on the committee are allocated to the same political group,

- (b) That the majority party on the Council must have a majority over all the other groups on the committee.
- (c) That subject to (a) and (b), the proportion of seats allocated to each political group of the total of all committees should be the same as the proportion of Members who belong to that group.
- (d) That subject (a)-(c), the proportion of seats allocated to each political group on each committee should be the same as the proportion of Members who belong to that group.

4.3 The principles outlined above rank in priority. Principles (a) and (b) (no one party committees and the largest political group having a majority) must always be satisfied. Subject to those first principles the proportionality rule in (d) is applied and this distributes places proportionally among the political groups according to their respective size. For ordinary committees, however, there is a further political requirement – principle (c) applies. This means that the distribution of places on the individual committees must be adjusted so that proportionality is observed across all the ordinary committees taken as a whole (subject to principles (a) and (b)) even though this will often mean departing from proportionality within a particular committee. The effect is that a second and any subsequent opposition party will generally be entitled to some committee places even though their size does not entitle them to places on all committees. The Regulations also provide for a member who is not a member of a political group under the requirements of the Act to be allocated seats to which the political groups are not entitled. As with the minority political groups it is the Council which decides which committees are allocated to Independent members.

4.4 The proposals have no workforce implications and any financial implications have been reflected within the approved budget. There are no Human Rights Act implications.

4.5 As an alternative to applying the political proportionality rules the Council is entitled under Section 17 of the Act to adopt different arrangements provided all of the members vote for/abstain from a proposal (ie: no member votes against).

## 5. **Supporting Information**

### **Allocation of Seats on Committees**

#### **Background**

5.1 The Council on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014 agreed the allocation of seats on the Council's Committees to political groups under the proportionality rules and appointed to those seats. The current allocation of seats is set out at Appendix 1.

#### **Group Membership**

5.2 On the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015 Councillor Coad formally advised of the establishment of a UKIP Group on the Council consisting of herself as Leader of the Group and Councillor Mellor. The Conservative Group have advised that Councillor Chahal is Group Leader with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015. The Council will therefore need to consider the allocation of Committee seats based on revised group size.

## **Revised Proportionality**

### **Committee Places**

- 5.3 The Labour Group comprises 33 Members and remains entitled to 78.57 % of the committee seats of the whole council. The Conservative Group now comprises seven members and is entitled to 16.67% of the seats and the newly formed UKIP Group consists of two members and is entitled to 4.76% of the seats. The seats allocated to each Group must reflect this entitlement, as far as reasonably practicable, having taken into account principles (a), (b) and (c) above. There are 50 seats available for allocation.
- 5.4 The Labour Group is entitled to 39 seats, the Conservative Group to 8 seats and UKIP Group to 3 seats.
- 5.5 The revised proportionality results in the following actions being necessary:
- the Conservative Group losing **one seat on two** of the nine member committees - Overview and Scrutiny, Employment and Appeals or Planning
  - UKIP gaining **one seat on two** of the nine member committees - Overview and Scrutiny, Employment and Appeals or Planning
- 5.6 The Conservative Group will also need to appoint a member to replace Councillor Coad on the Licensing Committee, Employment and Appeals Committee (depending on the Council decision on allocation of seats) and Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel.

## 6. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Allocation of seats on Committees – June 2014.

Appendix 2 – Proposed allocation of seats on Committees- February 2015

## 7. **Background Papers**

UKIP Group Memorial

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**ALLOCATION OF SEATS – COUNCIL JUNE 2014**

	<b>Total No. of Seats on Body</b>	<b>Labour (33) (78.57%)</b>	<b>Conservative (8) (19.05%)</b>	<b>A Mellor (1) (2.38%)</b>
Cabinet (Executive)	8	8		
Standards Advisory	6	5	1	
Audit and Risk	6	5	1	
Overview & Scrutiny	9	7	2	
Planning	9	7	2	
Licensing	11	8	2	1
Employment & Appeals	9	7	2	
<b><u>TOTAL SEATS ALLOCATED</u></b>	<b>50</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>GROUP SEAT ENTITLEMENT (Basket)</u></b>		<b>39 (39.28)</b>	<b>10 (9.53)</b>	<b>1 (1.19)</b>

**ALLOCATION OF SEATS – COUNCIL JANUARY 2015**

	<b>Total No. of Seats on Body</b>	<b>Labour (33) (78.57%)</b>	<b>Conservative (7) (16.67%)</b>	<b>UKIP (2) (4.76%)</b>
Cabinet (Executive)	8	8		
Standards Advisory	6	5	1	
Audit and Risk	6	5	1	
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2*(-1?)</b>	<b>*(+1?)</b>
<b>Planning</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2*(-1?)</b>	<b>(+1?)*</b>
Licensing	11	8	2	1
<b>Employment &amp; Appeals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2*(-1?)</b>	<b>*(+1?)</b>
<b><u>TOTAL SEATS ALLOCATED</u></b>	<b>50</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8*</b>	<b>3*</b>
<b><u>GROUP SEAT ENTITLEMENT (Basket)</u></b>		<b>39 (39.28)</b>	<b>8 (8.34)</b>	<b>3 (2.38)</b>

- \*the Conservative Group lose **one seat on two** of the nine member committees - Overview and Scrutiny, Employment and Appeals or Planning
- \*UKIP gain **one seat on two** of the nine member committees - Overview and Scrutiny, Employment and Appeals or Planning.