

Appendix A - Proportionality Allocations

Changes since Last Political Balance Calculation

It is a legislative duty to review political balance if there have been changes to membership since the last calculation. Since political balance was calculated last in March 2024, there have been the following changes:-

- The election of Cllr Bill McElhinney (Conservative), to the vacant Desborough Ward Council seat.

This has had the effect of:-

- increasing the number of Conservative Group seats on the Council by one councillor;
- reducing the number of vacant seats on the Council from one councillor to zero councillors.

There are no changes to report in representation for the Labour, Green Alliance or Independent Alliance Groups on the Council.

Political Proportionality for the whole council of 78 members and recognised groups

Only recognised groups (2 or more members) are entitled to seats on Committees. Independent members could be allocated if there was a unanimous vote of the Council. This table sets out the current political makeup of the Council.

	Number of Members	Percentage
Conservative Group	53	67.95%
Labour Group	17	21.79%
Green Alliance Group	4	5.13%
Independent Alliance Group	4	5.13%
TOTAL	78	100 %

Seats available on Ordinary Committees

The Council has 82 seats available on Ordinary Committees which are Scrutiny Management Board (6), Corporate Scrutiny Committee (9), Health Scrutiny Committee (9), Place and Environment Scrutiny (9), Audit and Governance Committee (10), Democracy and Standards Committee (13), Employment Committee (13), Licensing and Appeals Committee (13).

The political proportionality for the Political Groups, as set out above, equate to the total number of seats set out in the table below.

- *Area Committees are excluded from these Ordinary Committee calculations as it is a legislative requirement that they are based on local political proportionality;*
- *Executive Committees/Executive Advisory Panels are excluded from this calculation as appointments are an Executive function rather than a Council one.*

	Allocated Seats
Conservative Group	55.71 seats (previously 54.66 seats) rounded up to 56 seats
Labour Group	17.87 seats (previously 17.87 seats) rounded up to 18 seats
Green Alliance Group	4.21 seats (previously 4.21 seats) rounded down to 4 seats
Independent Alliance Group	4.21 seats (previously 4.21 seats) rounded down to 4 seats
<i>Vacant Seats</i>	<i>0 seats (previously 1.05 seats)</i>
TOTAL	82

Seats available on Area Planning Committees

The Council has 13 seats available on Area Planning Committee North and 13 seats available on Area Planning South. The entitlement for each committee is now as follows:-

Area Planning North

	Allocated Seats
Conservative	6.07 seats (previously 5.78 seats) rounded down to 6 seats.
Labour	4.91 seats (previously 4.91 seats) rounded up to 5 seats.
Green Alliance	1.15 seats (previously 1.15 seats) rounded down to 1 seat
Independent Alliance	0.87 seats (previously 0.87 seats) rounded up to 1 seat
<i>Vacant Seats</i>	<i>0 seats (previously 0.29 seats)</i>
TOTAL	13

Area Planning South

	Allocated Seats
Conservative	13 seats (previously 13 seats)
Labour	0 seats (previously 0 seats)
Green Alliance	0 seats (previously 0 seats)
Independent Alliance	0 seats
TOTAL	13

Recommendations

- a) That in order to maintain political balance on Ordinary Committees, the revised distribution of seats across the political groups will be as follows:-

Standing Committees (subject to political balance)	Total seats	Conservative	Labour	Green Alliance	Independent Alliance
Scrutiny Management Board	6	5	1	0	0
Corporate Scrutiny	9	6	2	0	1
Health Scrutiny	9	6	2	1	0
Place & Environment Scrutiny	9	6	2	1	0
Audit and Governance	10	7	2	0	1
Democracy and Standards	13	9	3	1	0
Employment	13	8	3	1	1
Licensing and Appeals	13	9	3	0	1
<i>Total Seat Entitlement</i>		<i>56</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>
Total Seats	82	56	18	4	4

[Note:- This results in the Conservative Group gaining one seat on the Scrutiny Management Board which was previously held as vacant seat pending the Desborough by-election. There are no changes to other Group entitlements as a result.]

- b) That in order to maintain political balance on Area Planning Committees, it be noted there is no requirement to revise the distribution of seats across the political groups.

[Note:- For completeness, the distribution remains as follows:-]

Area Planning Committees (local political balance is required)		Conservative	Labour	Green Alliance	Independent Alliance
Area Planning North	13 total	6	5	1	1
Area Planning South	13 total	13	0	0	0

- c) In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, it be noted that any changes to places on committees arising from the new political balance will be made by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the leaders of the political groups represented on the Council.