

Review of Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

(Option 3)

Appoint Ordinary Committees Only in Strict Accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990

1. Composition of the Council

	No. of Cllrs	Pct of Council
Conservative Group	24	53.33%
Labour Group	16	35.56%
Progressive Group	2	4.44%
Non-Aligned Members	3	6.67%
Total	45	100%

2. Ordinary Committees

2.1 The following are a list of the ordinary committees of the Council:

- Electoral Matters Committee (5 seats)
- General Purposes Committee (5 seats)
- Governance Committee (7 seats)
- Planning Committee (10 seats)
- Regulatory Committee (5 seats)

This equals 32 Seats in total.

3. Application of the Principles

1st Principle: That not all seats on the body are allocated to the same political group

3.1 The determinations set out in this Appendix are consistent with this principle.

2nd Principle The majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership

3.2 The Conservative Group is the majority of the Council's membership with 24 seats out of the Council's total membership of 45 seats. This would result in the following allocation to give them a majority of the seats on each body:

Committee	CON
Electoral Matters Committee (5 seats)	3
General Purposes Committee (5 seats)	3
Governance Committee (7 seats)	4
Planning Committee (10 seats)	6
Regulatory Committee (5 seats)	3
Totals (32 seats)	19

3rd Principle: Subject to [the first two principles], that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority

- 3.3 The starting point for the calculation is to determine the overall percentage of the Council that each political group and the non-aligned members make up.

	No. of Cllrs	Percentage of Council
Conservative Group	24	53.33%
Labour Group	16	35.56%
Progressive Group	2	4.44%
Non-Aligned Members	3	6.67%
Total	45	100%

- 3.4 The majority Conservative Group has already been allocated 19 seats in accordance with the 2nd principle, which is slightly more than they would receive on a purely proportionate basis. There is therefore no further allocation required for this group. For the remaining political groups this would result in the following determination of seats overall:

Political Group	No. of Councillors	Percentage of Council	Number of Seats (32 ordinary seats)
Conservative Group	24	53.33%	17
Labour Group	16	35.56%	11
Progressive Group	2	4.44%	1

- 3.5 The seats on the various ordinary committees of the Council are therefore allocated as follows:

Committee	CON	LAB	PRO	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Electoral Matters Committee	3	1 (1.78)	0 (0.22)	5	5	0
General Purposes	3	1 (1.78)	0 (0.22)	5	5	0

Committee	CON	LAB	PRO	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Committee						
Governance Committee	4	2 (2.49)	0 (0.31)	6	7	1
Planning Committee	6	3 (3.56)	0 (0.44)	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	1 (1.78)	0 (0.22)	5	5	0
Totals	19	8	0	31	32	1

- 3.6 This results in an under-allocation of 3 seats to the Labour Group and an under-allocation of 1 seat to the Progressive Group. The remaining unallocated seats are therefore allocated on a largest part number basis, resulting in the following allocation:

Committee	CON	LAB	PRO	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Electoral Matters Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
General Purposes Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
Governance Committee	4	2	0	6	7	1
Planning Committee	6	3	1	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
Totals	19	11	1	31	32	1

4th Principle: Subject to [principles 1 -3 above], that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority

Committee	CON	LAB	PRO	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Electoral Matters Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
General Purposes Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
Governance Committee	4	2	0	6	7	1
Planning Committee	6	3	1	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
Totals	19	11	1	31	32	0

- 3.7 The remaining seat on the Governance Committee is allocated to the Non-Aligned Members in accordance with section 16(2A) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, resulting in a final determination as follows:

Committee	CON	LAB	PRO	NAM	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated Seats
Electoral Matters Committee	3	2	0	0	5	5	0
General Purposes Committee	3	2	0	0	5	5	0
Governance Committee	4	2	0	1	7	7	0
Planning Committee	6	3	1	0	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	2	0	0	5	5	0
Totals	19	11	1	1	32	32	0

- 3.8 Council will need to vote on the allocation of each seat to non-aligned members on an individual basis in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.7.

4. **Bodies to which political balance applies**

- 4.1 The next step is to determine the two political balanced committees that are not treated as ordinary committees for the purpose of this option. These are the two overview and scrutiny committees.
- 4.2 As political balance applies to the two scrutiny committees, the four principles will need to be applied.

1st Principle: That not all seats on the body are allocated to the same political group

- 4.3 The determinations set out in this Appendix are consistent with this principle.

2nd Principle The majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership

- 4.4 The Conservative Group is the majority of the Council's membership with representing 53.33% (24 out of 45) of the Council's total membership. This would result in the following allocation to give them a majority of the seats on each body:

Committee	CON
Scrutiny (Community & Regeneration) Committee (10 seats)	6
Scrutiny (Policy & Performance) Committee (10 seats)	6

3rd Principle: Subject to [the first two principles], that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority

- 4.5 This does not apply as the bodies in question are not ordinary committees.

4th Principle: Subject to [principles 1 -3 above], that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority

- 4.6 When applied to the two non-ordinary committees this would result in the following determination:

Committee	CON	LAB (35.56%)	PRO (4.44%)	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Scrutiny (Community & Regeneration) Committee	6	3 (3.56)	0 (0.44)	9	10	1

Committee	CON	LAB (35.56%)	PRO (4.44%)	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Scrutiny (Policy & Performance) Committee	6	3 (3.56)	0 (0.44)	9	10	1

- 4.7 The remaining seats on the bodies are allocated to the Non-Aligned Members in accordance with section 16(2A) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, resulting in a final determination as follows, resulting in a final determination as follows:

Committee	CON	LAB	PRO	NAM	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Scrutiny (Community & Regeneration) Committee	6	3	0	1	10	10	0
Scrutiny (Policy & Performance) Committee	6	3	0	1	10	10	0

- 4.8 Council will need to vote on the allocation of each seat to non-aligned members on an individual basis in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.7.

5. Final Allocation

- 5.1 In summary, this option would result in the following allocation:

Committee	CON	LAB	PRO	NAM	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Electoral Matters Committee	3	2	0	0	5	5	0

Committee	CON	LAB	PRO	NAM	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
General Purposes Committee	3	2	0	0	5	5	0
Governance Committee	4	2	0	1	7	7	0
Planning Committee	6	3	1	0	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	2	0	0	5	5	0
Scrutiny (Community & Regeneration) Committee	6	3	0	1	10	10	0
Scrutiny (Policy & Performance) Committee	6	3	0	1	10	10	0
Totals	35	19	1	4	59	59	0

6. **Other Bodies**

- 6.1 This leaves the appointments to the Licensing Committee, Dover Joint Transportation Board, the Joint Staff Consultative Forum and the Joint Health, Safety and Welfare Consultative Forum. Appointments to these bodies are outside the Political Balance Requirements and are at the discretion of the Council. However, historically the Council has appointed to these committees so as to respect political balance. By way of illustration this is the current situation.

Committee	CON	LAB	PRO	NAM	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats
Licensing Committee (15 seats)	8	5	1	1	15	15
Dover Joint Transportation Board (7 seats)	4	2	0	1	7	7
Joint Staff Consultative Forum (5 seats)	3	2	0	0	5	5
Joint Health, Safety and Welfare Consultative Forum (5 seats)	3	2	0	0	5	5

The East Kent Shared Services Committee

- 6.2 As this committee appoints less than 3 seats, there is no requirement to be politically balanced. The terms of reference of the committee require the appointments to be of Executive Members (usually the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council). The Council also appoints two named substitute members from the executive.

Committee	CON	LAB	PRO	NAM	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats
East Kent Shared Services Committee (2 seats)	2	0	0	0	2	2