

Review of Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

(Option 1)

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	Percentage of the Council*
Conservative Group	19	59.38%
Labour Group	12	37.50%
Non-Aligned Members	1	3.13%
Total	32	100.00%

(* rounded to 2 decimal places)

2. Ordinary Committees

2.1 The following is 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 (17 or more) of the Council's membership with 19 seats out of the Council's total membership of 32 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	19	59.38%
Labour Group	12	37.50%
Non-Aligned Members	1	3.12%
Total	32	100.00%

- 3.4 The majority Conservative Group has already been allocated 19 seats in accordance with the 2nd principle, which is the same as they would receive on a purely proportionate basis. There is therefore no further allocation required for this group. For the remaining political group (the Labour Group) 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	19	59.38%	19.00 (say 19)
Labour Group	12	37.50%	12.00 (say 12)

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

Committee	CON	LAB	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Electoral Matters Committee	3	1 (1.88)	5	5	0
General Purposes Committee	3	1 (1.88)	5	5	0
Governance Committee	4	2 (2.63)	6	7	1

Committee	CON	LAB	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Planning Committee	6	3 (3.75)	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	1 (1.88)	5	5	0
Totals	19	8	27	32	5

- 3.6 This results in an under-allocation of 4 seats to the Labour Group. The remaining unallocated seats are therefore allocated on a largest part number basis, resulting in the following allocation:

Committee	CON	LAB	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Electoral Matters Committee	3	2	5	5	0
General Purposes Committee	3	2	5	5	0
Governance Committee	4	2	6	7	1
Planning Committee	6	4	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	2	5	5	0
Totals	19	12	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

	No. of Cllrs	Percentage of Council
Conservative Group	19	59.38%
Labour Group	12	37.50%
Non-Aligned Members	1	3.12%
Total	32	100.00%

Committee	CON	LAB	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Electoral Matters Committee	3 (60%)	2 (40%)	5	5	0
General Purposes Committee	3 (60%)	2 (40%)	5	5	0
Governance Committee	4 (57.14%)	2 (28.57%)	6	7	1
Planning Committee	6 (60%)	4 (40%)	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3(60%)	2 (40%)	5	5	0
Totals	19	12	31	32	1

- 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	NAM	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated Seats
Electoral Matters Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
General Purposes Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
Governance Committee	4	2	1	7	7	0
Planning Committee	6	4	0	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
Totals	19	12	1	32	32	0

- 3.8 Council would normally 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. However, as there is only one non-aligned member the seat can only be allocated to that non-aligned member.

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

- 4.1 The next step is to determine the political balanced committees that are not treated as ordinary committees for the purpose of this option. These means the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.2 As political balance applies to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, despite it not being an ordinary committee, 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 (17 or more councillors) of the Council's membership with representing 59.38% (19 out of 32 councillors) of the Council's total membership. This would result in the following allocation to give them a majority of the seats on the body:

Committee	CON
Overview and Scrutiny 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 non-ordinary committee this would result in the following determination:

Committee	CON	LAB (37.50%)	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	3 (3.75)	9	10	1

4.7 The remaining seat on the body 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	NAM	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	3	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. However, as there is only one non-aligned member the seat can only be allocated to that non-aligned member.

5. **Final Allocation**

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

Committee	CON	LAB	NAM	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	1	7	7	0
Planning Committee	6	4	0	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	3	1	10	10	0
Totals	25	15	2	42	42	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.

6.2 However, historically the Council has appointed to these committees so as to respect political balance. In keeping with this method of appointment, the following seats would be allocated:

Committee	CON	LAB	NAM	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats
Licensing Committee (15 seats)	9	6	0	15	15
Dover Joint Transportation Board (7 seats)	4	3	0	7	7
Joint Staff Consultative Forum (5 seats)	3	2	0	5	5
Joint Health, Safety and Welfare Consultative Forum (5 seats)	3	2	0	5	5

6.3 As these seats are outside of the political balance rules, the decision on the allocation of seats would be made by a majority vote in accordance with council procedure rule 18.7.

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