

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*
Labour Group	17	53.13%
Conservative Group	14	43.75%
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. No allocation for an Ordinary Committee consisting of members of only one political group is proposed based on the calculations.

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 Labour Group is the majority group (holding 17 or more members) of the Council's membership with 17 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	LAB
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
Labour Group	17	53.13%
Conservative Group	14	43.75%
Non-Aligned Members	1	3.12%
Total	32	100.00%

- 3.4 If the seats are allocated to each political group in accordance with the third principle this would result in the following allocation:

Political Group	No. of Councillors	Percentage of Council	Number of Seats (32 ordinary seats)
Labour Group	17	53.13%	17.00 (say 17)
Conservative Group	14	43.75%	14.00 (say 14)
TOTAL	31	96.88%	31 seats

Committee	LAB	CON
Electoral Matters Committee	2.66 (say 2 seats)	2.19 (say 2 seats)
General Purposes Committee	2.66 (say 2 seats)	2.19 (say 2 seats)
Governance Committee	3.72 (say 3 seats)	3.06 (say 3 seats)
Planning Committee	5.31 (say 5 seats)	4.38 (say 4 seats)
Regulatory Committee	2.66 (say 2 seats)	2.19 (say 2 seats)
Totals	14 seats	13 seats

- 3.5 However, the allocation of seats in the 3rd Principle is subject to the first two principles which means that it is subordinate to the 2nd Principle which requires that the majority Labour Group be allocated the majority of the seats on the body as the number of persons belonging to that group (17) is a majority of the authority's membership.
- 3.6 This increased allocation for the majority group has not been a factor in the recent past as the majority group has always composed of closer to 60% of the Council's overall membership.
- 3.7 The Labour Group has therefore been allocated 2 seats more than its purely proportional entitlement to the total number of seats based on its overall membership of the authority.
- 3.8 The remaining seats on the various ordinary committees of the Council would be proportional allocated (all part numbers rounded down) as follows:

Committee	LAB (2 nd Principle)	CON	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Electoral Matters Committee	3	2	5	5	0
General Purposes Committee	3	2	5	5	0
Governance Committee	4	3	7	7	0
Planning Committee	6	4	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	2	5	5	0
Totals	19	13	32	32	0

- 3.9 This proportional allocation fulfils the requirements of Principles 1 and 2. It results in an under-allocation of 1 seat to the Conservative Group and an over allocation of 2 seats to the Labour Group compared to an allocation purely on the 3rd Principle.
- 3.10 There are no further remaining unallocated seats to be allocated.

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

A proportional allocation based on this principle would result is the following seat allocation:

	No. of Cllrs	Percentage of Council
Labour Group	17	53.13%
Conservative Group	14	43.75%
Non-Aligned Members	1	3.13%
Total	32	100.00%

3.11 However, this is subject to the application of principles 1 to 3.

Committee	LAB (2 nd Principle)	CON (3 rd Principle)	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Electoral Matters Committee	3	2	5	5	0
General Purposes Committee	3	2	5	5	0
Governance Committee	4	3	7	7	0
Planning Committee	6	4	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	2	5	5	0
Totals	19	13	32	32	0
Percentage	59.38%	40.63%	100%	100%	

3.12 The 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 are no seats to allocate this does not apply.

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 Labour Group is the majority (17 or more councillors) of the Council's membership with representing 53.13% (17 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	LAB
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 body in question (the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) is not an ordinary committee.

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	LAB	CON (43.75%)	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats	Unallocated
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	4 (4.38)	10	10	0

- 4.7 The 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 are no seats to allocate this does not apply.

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	3	0	7	7	0
Planning Committee	6	4	0	10	10	0
Regulatory Committee	3	2	0	5	5	0
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	4	0	10	10	0
Totals	25	17	0	42	42	0

6. Other Bodies

6.1 This leaves the appointments to the Licensing Committee, Dover Joint Transportation Advisory 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 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	LAB	CON	NAM	Allocated Seats	Actual Seats
Licensing Committee (15 seats)	8	7	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 the seats set out in the table at paragraph 6.2 above 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.

6.4 The Non-Aligned Member has not been allocated any seats based on the application of the political balance arrangements but it is at the discretion of the Council should it wish to allocate a seat to the Non-Aligned Member. If this were to be done, it would only require a majority vote if the seat was on the Licensing Committee, Dover Joint Transportation Advisory Board or one of the two Joint Foras.

The East Kent Shared Services Committee

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