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## **Proportionality**

### **Background**

- 1** It is the duty of the County Council, following the Three Bridges by-election to review the entitlement of political groups to seats on committees in line with the proportionality rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The rules allow adjustments to be made to make whole numbers of seats and, once the County Council has determined how adjustments should be made, appointments are made to committees on that basis.
- 2** The proportionality rules are as set out below:
  - (1) No political group can have all the places on a committee (the exception is the Cabinet).
  - (2) A group having an overall majority on the County Council is entitled to a majority of seats on each committee.
  - (3) The gross number of seats is allocated in accordance with each group's entitlement.
  - (4) The number of seats on each committee is allocated in accordance with each group's entitlement.
- 3** The application of these rules produces different figures so the figures have to be reconciled by applying the rules in descending order of importance. The critical rule is rule (2) if, as in the case of the County Council, there is an overall majority, and numbers of seats are then reconciled with rules (3) and (4). Under the rules, if there are members of the Council who do not belong to a political group (independent members) then, once the division of seats between the political groups has been made, any remaining seats are allocated to the independent members by the County Council.
- 4** Mr Parikh, the member for Bourne, resigned from the Conservative Group and subsequently the County Council in August. A by-election to fill the vacancy will be held on 21 November. A further calculation of proportionality will therefore be required at the Council meeting in December.
- 5** A table showing the number of seats on committees using the above formula following the outcome of the Three Bridges by-election is set out overleaf.

### **Proposal**

- 6** There are currently Conservative vacancies on four committees – the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee, the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee, the Planning Committee and the Rights of Way Committee. Following the result of the Three Bridges by-election, it is proposed that the Conservative Group should fill three vacancies at this time. The remaining vacancy, on the Planning Committee, will await a full recalculation of proportionality after the Bourne by-election.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Places</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Ind Con</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Vac</b>
Performance and Finance	15	12	2	1	0	0	0
Children and Young People's Services	12 (16+)	9	1	1	1	0	0
Environment, Communities and Fire	12	9	2	1	0	0	0
Health and Adult Social Care	12(19+)	9	2	1	0	0	0
Planning	13	10	1	1	0	0	1
Regulation, Audit and Accounts	7	5	1	1	0	0	0
Rights of Way	9	7	0	0	1	1	0
Governance	9	7	1	1	0	0	0
Standards	9	7	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Allocation of seats</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

### **Recommended**

That the proportionality on committees be approved.

### **Tony Kershaw**

Director of Law and Assurance

**Contact Officer:** Charles Gauntlett 033 022 22524

### **Background papers**

None