
Proportionality

Background

- 1** It is the duty of the County Council, following the establishment of the Fire & Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee with effect from 14 February 2020, 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** A table showing the number of seats on committees using the above formula following the establishment of the Scrutiny Committee is set out overleaf.

Committee	Places	Con	Lib Dem	Lab	Ind Con	Ind
Performance and Finance	15	12	2	1	0	0
Children and Young People's Services	12 (16+)	9	1	1	1	0
Environment and Communities	12	9	2	1	0	0
Fire & Rescue Service	7	5	1	1	0	0
Health and Adult Social Care	12(19+)	9	2	1	0	0
Planning	13	11	1	1	0	0
Regulation, Audit and Accounts	7	5	1	1	0	0
Rights of Way	9	7	0	0	1	1
Governance	9	7	1	1	0	0
Standards	9	7	1	0	1	0
Allocation of seats	105	81	12	8	3	1

Recommended

That the proportionality on committees be approved.

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Background papers

None