
Proportionality

Background

- 1** It is the duty of the County Council, following the Worthing West and Felpham by-elections 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.

Allocation of seats

Committees	Places	Con	Lib Dem	Lab	Green and Ind All	Ind
Performance and Finance	15	10	2	2	1	0
Children and Young People's Services	12(16†)	8	2	2	0	0
Communities, Highways and Environment	12	8	2	2	0	0
Fire & Rescue Service	7	5	1	1	0	0

Committees	Places	Con	Lib Dem	Lab	Green and Ind All	Ind
Health and Adult Social Care	12(19†)	8	2	2	0	0
Planning and Rights of Way	13	8	1	1	2	1
Regulation, Audit and Accounts	7	5	1	1	0	0
Governance	9	6	2	1	0	0
Standards	9	5	2	0	1	1
Allocation of seats	96	63	15	12	4	2

† Include four/seven voting co-opted members respectively

Recommended

That the proportionality be approved.

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

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Background papers

None