
Proportionality

Background

- 1** Following Cllr Wild's decision to join the Green and Independent Alliance Group the County Council must review the entitlement of political groups to seats on committees in line with the proportionality rules in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The rules allow adjustments to make whole numbers of seats and, once the County Council has determined any adjustments, appointments can be 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 each of these rules produces different figures which 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, a group has 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 allocation of seats between the political groups has been made, any remaining seats are allocated to the independent members by the County Council.
- 4** The Green and Independent Alliance Group is entitled to six seats in total. A table detailing the results of the proportionality changes will follow.

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Background papers

None