

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17 May 2011

Report of Monitoring Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters For Decision

1 POLITICAL BALANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMITTEES

To determine the political balance arrangements to be applied to the Council's committees, sub-committees, advisory boards and panels.

1.1.1 Under section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (duty to allocate seats to political groups) and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Council is required to review the composition of any of its committees and sub-committees to which those provisions apply at the annual meeting of the Council.

1.1.2 Following the recent election, the number of seats held by each of the political parties is as follows:

Conservative	48	(90.57%)
Liberal Democrat	4	(7.55%)
Labour	1	(1.89%)

1.1.3 The Council is required to determine the composition of its committees so as to reflect this political balance and to ensure that the total number of seats which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on those committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council ie 255 seats allocated 231 Conservative, 19 Liberal Democrat, 5 Labour. The table below shows the number of committees etc of various sizes which need to be politically balanced and the way in which the total number of available seats might be allocated to reflect the proportions on the Council as a whole. In consequence, it is suggested that those committees requiring to be politically balanced be composed as follows:

Size of Committee	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Labour
18 (x1)	16 (16.30)	1 (1.36)	1 (0.34)
15 (x1)	14 (13.58)	1 (1.13)	0 (0.28)
14 (x1)	13 (12.68)	1 (1.06)	0 (0.26)
13 (x13)	#12 (11.77)	*1 (0.98)	*0 (0.25)
9 (x3)	8 (8.15)	*1 (0.68)	*0 (0.17)
7 (x1)	6 (6.34)	1 (0.53)	0 (0.13)
5 (x1)	4 (4.53)	*1 (0.38)	*0 (0.09)
Total no seats = 255	231	19	5
	# 12 (x11) 11 (x2)	* 1 seat allocated to LibDem or Labour plus #2	

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 The Council is required to review the composition of its committees in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (duty to allocate seats to political groups) and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 Not applicable.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 Not applicable.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 RECOMMENDED that:

- 1) the composition of all committees, sub-committees, advisory boards and panels be approved in accordance with the table at paragraph 1.1.3; and
- 2) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Council's constitution in respect of political balance.

Background papers:

contact: Claire Fox

Nil

Julie Beilby
Monitoring Officer

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The decision is an internal procedural matter for the Council.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	As above.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		Not applicable.

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.