

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

10 July 2012

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 following the by-election for West Malling and Leybourne.

- 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 Further to the Returning Officer's report on the result of the by-election for the West Malling and Leybourne ward, the number of seats now 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 277 seats allocated 251 Conservative, 21 Liberal Democrat, 5 Labour. This overall allocation of seats is the same as that reported to the Annual Council meeting and the table below shows the number of committees etc of various sizes needing to be politically balanced and the way in which the available seats were allocated to reflect the proportions on the Council as a whole.
- 1.1.4 It therefore remains for the Conservative Group to decide which of its existing seats should be re-allocated to the new councillor and for any changes to the membership of committees etc to be endorsed by the Council. Details will be

circulated at the meeting.

Size of Committee	Example	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Labour
18 (x1)	O&S Ctee	16 (16.30)	1 (1.36)	1 (0.34)
15 (x1)	L&A Ctee	14 (13.58)	1 (1.13)	0 (0.28)
14 (x1)	GP Ctee	13 (12.68)	1 (1.06)	0 (0.26)
13 (x14)	S&T, Adv Bds	#12 (11.77)	*1 (0.98)	*0 (0.25)
9 (x4)	Various groups	8 (8.15)	*1 (0.68)	*0 (0.17)
7 (x1)	Audit Ctee	6 (6.34)	1 (0.53)	0 (0.13)
5 (x1)	Hsg Assn LP	4 (4.53)	*1 (0.38)	*0 (0.09)
Total no seats = 277		251	21	5
		# 12 (x12) 11 (x2)	* 1 seat allocated to LibDem or Labour plus 2 seats from #	

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 approved composition of all committees, sub-committees, advisory boards and panels remain unchanged as set out in the table at paragraph 1.1.3; and
- 2) any changes to appointments, as notified at the meeting, be approved.

Background papers:

Nil

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Adrian Stanfield

Adrian Stanfield
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.