

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Head of Corporate Organisation

REPORT NUMBER

M3

TO: Council

DATE OF MEETING

24 April 2012

POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, a Local Authority is under a duty to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups at every annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. In addition, the composition of Committees must be approved at Annual Council each year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.2 That the ungrouped member Mr C W Arthey be appointed to serve on the Development Committee.
- 2.3 That Committee seats be allocated as set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Significant Business Risk No. 1 – Political and Managerial Leadership. Key risks are set out below.

| Risk Description | Likelihood | Impact | Mitigation Measures |
|---|------------|----------|--|
| Members not appointed and Committee not quorate | Very low | Critical | Discussions already held with Group Leaders. |

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 Consultations have been undertaken with Group Leaders.

6. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

- 6.1 Not relevant to this report.

7. **SHARED SERVICE/PARTNERSHIP IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no shared service implications.

8. **KEY INFORMATION**

8.1 Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 where a local authority is grouped for Committee composition purposes, the Authority is required to make arrangements to ensure that its Committees share the same political balance as the full Council. (There is only one exception to this that applies in the case of the Standards Committee).

8.2 A separate report on the composition of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Standards Committee appears elsewhere on the agenda.

8.3 The first step, therefore, is for the Council to approve the numerical allocation of Committee seats, and the calculation in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 is shown in Appendix 1 to this report. It will be noted from Appendix 1 that the precise figure to two decimal places is given in brackets. The calculation provides for 55 Committee seats to the various groups as follows:-

| | | |
|------------------|---|----------|
| Conservative | - | 23 seats |
| Liberal Democrat | - | 15 seats |
| Independent | - | 12 seats |
| Labour | - | 4 seats |
| Others | - | 1 seat |

9. **APPENDICES**

| Title | Location |
|--|----------|
| Appendix 1 – size of Committee and numerical allocation. | Attached |
| Appendix 2 – composition of Committees. | Attached |

10. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

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APPENDIX 1

| COMMITTEES | NO. OF SEATS | INDEPENDENT (9 MEMBERS) | | CONSERVATIVE (18 MEMBERS) | | LIB/DEM (12 MEMBERS) | | LABOUR (3 MEMBERS) | | OTHERS (1 MEMBER) | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| STRATEGY | 10 | (2.09) | 2 | (4.19) | 4 | (2.79) | 3 | (0.70) | 1 | (0.23) | 0 |
| OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (STEWARDSHIP) | 9 | (1.88) | 2 | (3.77) | 4 | (2.51) | 3 | (0.63) | 0 | (0.21) | 0 |
| OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) | 9 | (1.88) | 2 | (3.77) | 4 | (2.51) | 2 | (0.63) | 1 | (0.21) | 0 |
| DEVELOPMENT | 15 | (3.14) | 3 | (6.28) | 6 | (4.19) | 4 | (1.05) | 1 | (0.35) | 1 |
| LICENSING AND APPEALS | 12 | (2.51) | 3 | (5.02) | 5 | (3.35) | 3 | (0.84) | 1 | (0.27) | 0 |
| JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | 5 | (1.05) | 1 | (2.09) | 2 | (1.40) | 2 | (0.35) | 0 | (0.17) | 0 |
| TOTAL TARGET | 60 | (12.55) | 13 | (25.12) | 25 | (16.75) | 17 | (4.20) | 4 | (1.34) | 1 |

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES**STRATEGY COMMITTEE (10)**

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| A C Bavington | A K Pollard |
| N A Bennett | N A Ridley |
| S Carpendale | B Riley |
| A J Hinton | S M Wigglesworth |
| J A Jenkins | L H Young |

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (STEWARDSHIP) COMMITTEE (9)

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| S R Barrett | D Kendall |
| D M Busby | F R Lawrenson |
| J R B Cave | J Nunn |
| D G Grutchfield | C A Roberts |
| R E Kemp | |

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE (9)

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| J Antill | J Owen |
| P Burgoyne | J R A Sayers |
| B D Hurren | D L Wood |
| M Newman | |
| A M Norman | |

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (15)

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| C W Arthey | N MacMaster |
| P K Beer | M O Munson |
| M R M Bamford | A F D W Osborne |
| M J Deacon | D C Rose |
| K Grandon | R C Smith |
| P J Holbrook | R W Thake |
| P Jones | A J Ward |
| D H Keane | |

LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE (12)

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| J R B Cave | B Riley |
| M J Deacon | J R A Sayers |
| D G Grutchfield | R C Smith |
| P J Holbrook | R W Thake |
| P Jones | A J Ward |
| J M Owen | L H Young |

JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

S R Barrett
D M Busby
J R B Cave
B D Hurren
D C Rose

JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE (with Mid Suffolk District Council)

Co-opted Members

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| A C Bavington | A Barrow |
| G M Brewster | P F Cook |
| E B Gibson-Harries | P J Down |
| P M R Godden | R L Feltwell |
| P Jones | A George |
| R E Kemp | T Kavvadias |
| A F D W Osborne | C A Reeve |
| | M Roausslau |
| | N Turner |