

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

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| From: Head of Corporate Organisation | Report Number: R2 |
| To: Council | Date of Meeting: 19 May 2015 |

POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT 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, Tony Bavington, be appointed to serve on the Joint Audit and Standards Committee.
- 2.3 That Committee seats be allocated as set out in Appendix 2 to this report (an updated Appendix 2 will be circulated as soon as this information is available).

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 and other relevant Members.

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.

8.2 The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 allow ungrouped members to receive committee seats if any are left over once allocations have been made to the political groups in proportion to their membership of the authority. In its simplest terms, the political groups of Babergh make up 98% of the Council and 98% (or thereabouts) of the politically balanced committee seats would go to political groups.

8.3 The current committee structure has 53 available seats of which 52 go to political groups leaving 1 seat for Tony Bavington, the ungrouped Member of the Council. An ungrouped Member does not have a choice of committee and, in the absence of agreement, a vote would be taken by Full Council.

8.4 A separate report on the composition of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Standards Board appears elsewhere on the agenda.

8.5 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. The calculation provides for 52 Committee seats to the various groups as follows:-

| | | |
|------------------|---|----------|
| Conservative | - | 31 seats |
| Independent | - | 8 seats |
| Liberal Democrat | - | 3 seats |

8.6 This leaves 1 seat for the ungrouped Member.

8.7 Members of the Regulatory Committee automatically serve on the Licensing Act 2003 Committee.

8.8 Members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee automatically serve on the Babergh Scrutiny Committee.

8.9 Members of the Joint Audit and Standards Committee automatically serve on the Babergh Audit Committee.

8.10 Discussions are on-going with Group Leaders on the allocation of seats and any updates will be provided at the meeting.

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 (8 MEMBERS) | | CONSERVATIVE (31 MEMBERS) | | LIB/DEM (3 MEMBERS) | | LABOUR (Ungrouped) (1 MEMBER) | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| STRATEGY | 10 | 1.8 | 2 | 7.2 | 7 | 0.7 | 1 | 0.23 | 0 |
| JOINT SCRUTINY | 8 | 1.49 | 1 | 5.77 | 6 | 0.56 | 1 | 0.18 | 0 |
| JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS | 8 | 1.49 | 1 | 5.77 | 6 | 0.56 | 0 | 0.18 | 1 |
| PLANNING | 14 | 2.6 | 3 | 10.09 | 10 | 0.98 | 1 | 0.32 | 0 |
| REGULATORY | 10 | 1.8 | 2 | 7.21 | 7 | 0.7 | 1 | 0.23 | 0 |
| JOINT APPOINTMENTS | 3 | 0.56 | 1 | 2.16 | 2 | 0.21 | 0 | 0.07 | 0 |
| TOTAL TARGET | 53 | 9.86 | 10 | 38.21 | 38 | 3.7 | 4 | 1.23 | 1 |

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

STRATEGY COMMITTEE (10)

JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (8)

JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (8)

PLANNING COMMITTEE (14)

REGULATORY COMMITTEE (10)

JOINT APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (3)