Shropshire Council

Date: Thursday, 18 May 2017

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

Contact: Karen Nixon, Committee Officer
Tel: 01743 257720
Email: karen.nixon@shropshire.gov.uk

COUNCIL

TO FOLLOW REPORT (S)

10 Constitution of Committees and the Allocation of Seats to Political Groups (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the constitution of Committees and the allocation of seats between political groups.

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services will follow.

Contact Claire Porter Tel 01743 252763.

This page is intentionally left blank

Shropshire Council

Committee and date
Council
18 May 2017

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

Responsible Officer Claire Porter
Email: claire.porter@shropshire.gov.uk Telephone: (01743) 252763

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report deals with the overall constitution of committees, the overall entitlement of seats for each of the political groups and the proportionate allocation of seats between the groups across all committees.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Council confirms the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2017/18 municipal year and the allocation of seats between the political groups, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

REPORT

3.0 Local Government and Housing Act 1989

3.1 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review the representation of each political group on committees, panels etc. at each annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. The regulations require that all Scrutiny, Standing and Regulatory Committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places. Subject to that overriding requirement, each committee must also be politically balanced, as far as it is reasonably practicable.

3.2 The Executive (Cabinet) is not subject to the political balance rules.

3.3 Advisory Committees and other ad hoc bodies and groups are not subject to the political balance rules either, but traditionally political proportionality has been applied to them outside the overall aggregate balance referred to in paragraph 2.1 above.

4.0 Constitution of Committees

4.1 The Council is requested to approve the overall constitution of committees.

4.2 This requires 82 seats to be allocated proportionately across all committees and the Council is requested to approve the overall constitution as set out below:

Committee Name	Seats per Committee
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	10
Performance Management Scrutiny Committee	10
Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee	10
Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee	10
Young People's Scrutiny Committee	10
Pensions Committee	4
Audit Committee	5
Strategic Licensing Committee	15
Standards Committee*	8*
Total	82

4.3 * In order to comply with the political balance rules it is proposed that the number of seats on the Standards Committee be reduced from 9 seats to 8 seats.

5.0 Allocation of Seats

5.1 The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the coming year.

5.2 The maximum number of seats available to each group within the political balance rules will be:

Group Name	Seats per Group
Conservatives	56*
Liberal Democrats	13
Labour	9
Independent	4
Total	82

5.3 * Although it is ultimately a matter for Council to determine the number and size of committees and the distribution of seats between political groups, legislation provides that the non-affiliated members are entitled to a Committee seat on the Council. In July 2014 Council agreed for a seat to be on the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee and in February 2016 Council agreed for a seat to be on the Strategic Licensing Committee.

5.4 The proportionate allocation of seats to the political groups across all committees is set out in Appendix 1 and the proposed allocation of these totals

to individual members, in accordance with the wishes of the respective Group Leaders, is set out in Appendix 2 to this report (To Follow).

5.5 The Council is entitled to 11 seats on the Shropshire and Wrekin Combined Fire Authority. Under the present arrangements, the Conservative Group is entitled to 8 seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 2 seats and the Labour Group 1 seat.

5.6 The proposed allocation of seats meets the legal requirements, however, should the Council wish, it is possible to agree allocations which are not strictly politically balanced if no member dissents.

6.0 Appointment of Area Planning Committees

6.1 With regard to the allocation of seats on the area based Planning Committees (North, South and Central – 11 members of each) the Constitution requires members to be drawn from each of the individual areas, North, South and Central and for this reason the political balance rules have been disapplied. However, it has been agreed by Council that in order to recognise the local representation of each of the areas, the members of each of the Area Planning Committees will reflect the political balance of each local area.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder.
Human Rights Act Appraisal The contents of this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998.
Environmental Appraisal: Not Applicable
Risk Management Appraisal The Council is obliged to ensure that the membership of committees and related bodies is proportionate to individual group membership.
Community / Consultations Appraisal Not Applicable
Cabinet member: TBA
Local Members: All
Appendices Appendix 1 – Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups Appendix 2 – Proposed Allocation of Seats to Political Groups (To Follow)

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1

ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

Composition of the Council	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind	Total
[+ 2 unaligned Members]	**49**	**8**	**12**	**3**	**74**

SCRUTINY

Health and Adult Social Care	6	1	2	1	**10**
Performance Management*	7*	1	2	0	**10***
Environment and Services	7	1	2	0	**10**
Enterprise and Growth	7	1	1	1	**10**
Young People's	7	1	1	1	**10**

STANDING AND REGULATORY

Pensions Committee	3	0	1	0	**4**
Audit Committee	3	1	1	0	**5**
Standards	6	1	1	0	**8****
Strategic Licensing Committee	10***	2	2	1	**15**
Aggregate No Seats Required	56	9	13	4	**82**

*One seat allocated on Performance Management Scrutiny Committee to non-affiliated Member [previously Councillor D Tremellen]

** Reduction in seats on the Standards Committee in order to comply with political balance rules

***One seat allocated on Strategic Licensing Committee to non-affiliated Member [previously former Councillor D Kerr]

This page is intentionally left blank