Allocation of Seats to Political Groups
Leader of the Council.

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<th>Report to</th>
<th>Council</th>
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<td>Ward(s):</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key Decision:</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Appendix 1:</td>
<td>Schedule of Political Proportionality 2017/18</td>
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<td>Appendix 2:</td>
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<td>Appendix 3:</td>
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Papers relied on:

Foreword – Cllr Sanders, Leader of the Council

The council consists of 60 councillors representing the people of Basingstoke and Deane. Once elected two or more councillors can decide to be known as a group. Under the legislative framework governing the administration of local authorities it is a mandatory requirement that places on council committees are allocated as far as practical, on the basis of proportional representation on each committee and across all committees.

The Council must review the representation of the different political groups on committees at the Annual meeting of Council. This report guides the Council in constituting the councils committees, the allocation of places to groups on committees and across the council to comply with the statutory requirements.

Recommendation to Council:

- That the committee sizes and scheme of proportionality for 2017/18 be approved as set out in Appendix 1 in order to enable appointments to be made to Committees of Council.
- To note that in the recommended scheme of proportionality for 2017/18, the Audit and Accounts committee will have eleven Members and the Manydown Committee will have nine Members.

Background, corporate objectives and priorities
This report accords with the council’s Policy and Budget Framework and supports the development of an effective and efficient council.

Glossary of terms

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<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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Main considerations

1 Executive Summary

1.1 The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review the representation of different political groups on committees and sub-committees at, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting of the Council.

1.2 Subsequent to the last proportionality review following the 2016 elections, a by-election for the Winklebury Ward has been held and therefore the political balance of the council is currently:

- Conservative - 32 seats
- Labour – 20 seats
- Liberal Democrats – 6 seats
- Independents – 2 seats

1.3 Whilst there is no election in 2017, it is incumbent on the Council to satisfy itself each year that the rules of proportionality continue to be properly applied.

1.4 Therefore this report therefore seeks approval to the committee sizes and to adopt a scheme of proportionality for 2017/18.

1.5 This report also seeks approval for the Standards Committee to depart from political proportionality as set out in paragraph 3.2.3.

2 The Proposal

2.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to review committee membership and political representation annually. By law, seats on committees must be allocated in proportion to the political composition of the Council. In addition, the total number of seats across all of the committees must reflect the overall political balance of the Council. An authority can only decide that it wishes to adopt an arrangement other than a politically proportionate one if no Member votes against the resolution at a meeting of the Council.

3 Key Issues for consideration

3.1 Committees of Council
3.1.1 The Council’s Constitution currently provides for the appointment of the following committees:

- Audit and Accounts Committee
- Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee
- Development Control Committee
- Economic, Planning and Housing Committee
- Human Resources Committee
- Licensing Committee
- Manydown Overview Committee
- Scrutiny Committee
- Standards Committee

3.1.2 Under the Committee Procedure Rules, which form part of the Constitution, Committees of the Council shall not normally exceed 12 members each and the Manydown Overview, Human Resources and Audit and Accounts Committees shall not normally exceed eight members each.

3.1.3 In the recommended scheme of proportionality for 2017/18 the Audit and Accounts Committee will have eleven Members and the Manydown Overview Committee will have nine Members.

3.2 **Political Proportionality 2017/18**

3.2.1 A scheme of proportionality for 2017/18 is attached at Appendix 1. The scheme was last reviewed and agreed by group leaders following a by election in the Winklebury ward earlier this year. The scheme in appendix 1 reflects that agreement.

3.2.2 In determining the allocation of seats on ordinary committees, the proportion that each political group forms of the total membership of the Council is applied to the total number of elected Member seats on each committee. Fractional entitlements are rounded appropriately to ensure that this process of rounding does not result in advantage to one political group. The aggregate membership of all the ordinary committees must also be in line with the proportions on the Council.

3.2.3 In previous years, the council has agreed to provide a seat on the Standards Committee to all political groups on the council because of the important nature of its business. It is therefore proposed that this committee will comprise of one councillor from each party group, four independent members and four parish representatives. Therefore four councillors should be appointed to the committee.

3.2.4 The composition of this committee departs from political proportionality in appointing members and can only be agreed if no Member votes against the resolution at the meeting.
4 Options Analysis

4.1 The Council may only choose to depart from political proportionality in appointing members to any of its committees if no Member votes against the resolution at the meeting.

Corporate implications

5 Legal Implications

5.1 The annual review of the Council’s scheme of political proportionality is a statutory requirement under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

6 Financial implications

6.1 None

7 Risk management

7.1 A risk assessment has been completed in accordance with the council’s risk management process and has identified no significant (Red or Amber) residual risks that cannot be fully minimised by existing or planned controls or additional procedures.

8 Equalities implications

8.1 None

9 Consultation and communication

9.1 Group Leaders have been consulted informally and have agreed an allocation of seats as set out at Appendix 1.

10 HR implications

10.1 None

Conclusion

11 Summary and reason for the decision

11.1 Approval of the scheme of political proportionality will enable the Council to appoint Members to Committees for the new municipal year in accordance with the wishes of political groups.

12 The options considered and rejected

12.1 To not adopt a scheme of proportionality for 2017/18.
Date: 18 May 2017
Decision taken by: Council
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<tr>
<th><strong>Lead officer</strong></th>
<th>Bhupinder Gill, Interim Head of Law and Governance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Report author</strong></td>
<td>Julia Leavey, Democratic Services Team Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Version</strong></td>
<td>Final</td>
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<td><strong>Dated</strong></td>
<td>4 May 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Confidentiality</strong></td>
<td>It is considered that information contained within this report (<em>and appendix</em>) do not contain exempt information under the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and therefore can be made public.</td>
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