

MEETING:	Annual Council
DATE:	Wednesday 18 May 2005
SUBJECT:	Application of Political Balance Rules to the Allocation of Seats on Council Bodies
REPORT OF:	Local Democracy Manager
<u>Purpose:</u>	To bring before Council information governing the allocation of seats for the 2005/06 Council year in order that proposals and nominations can be considered.
<u>Contact:</u>	David Robinson, Local Democracy Manager. Telephone 01323 415022 or internally on extension 5022, or Peter Finnis, Assistant Director, Strategy and Democracy, Telephone 01323 41503 or internally on extension 5003.

1.0	<u>Introduction</u>	
1.1	A meeting of Group Leaders and Deputy Leaders was held on Tuesday 10 May 2005. An earlier version of this report was presented to that meeting..	
2.0	<u>Current Structure (Leader and Cabinet Model)</u>	
2.1	This paper is based on the current structure and the allocations as agreed last year when the political proportions were the same.	
2.2	Base percentages:-	

	No. of Councillors: 27	% seats on Council			
	Conservatives 14	52			
	Liberal Democrats 13	48			
2.3	Committees. The current allocation of seats in accordance with the rules is as follows:-				
	Committee	No. of Seats	Controlling Group	Opposition	
	Scrutiny	7	4	3	
	Planning	8	5	3	
	General Licensing	15	8	7	
	Standards	4	2	2	
	Totals:	34	19	15	
	<p>(Notes: Standards Committee. The political balance rules do not apply to the Standards Committee, however the Council previously amended their Constitution to provide for both Groups to be equally represented on this Committee.</p> <p>Licensing Act Committee. This committee is not listed as the political balance rules do not apply. It is done so as a matter of local discretion).</p>				
2.4	Other Bodies				

	Body	No. of Seats	Controlling Group	Opposition	
	Cons Area Adv.	3/4	2	1/2	
	Performance Management Task Group	5	3	2	
	Grants Task Group	3	2	1	
	Cleansing and Highways Forum	2	1	1	
	Downland Forum	4	2	2	
	Totals:	17/18	10	7/8	
2.6	Adjustments may be made to give the controlling group a majority of seats, however, past Borough Council practice has been to allow an equality of seats on some advisory and consultative bodies notwithstanding one party's superior number of Council seats.				
2.7	Joint Staff Committee. The current constitution provides for the 6 seats to be shared equally between the two largest groups.`				

2.8	Eastbourne Buses Board. The tradition has been for the Board to comprise 2 members from each of the largest political groups. This has held true irrespective of the overall proportion of seats. The Chairman of the Board has come from the controlling group.	
2.9	Other Task Groups and Boards. So far as is possible, groups are recommended to retain existing membership so as to maintain continuity and allow members to continue or complete work already begun.	
David Robinson Local Democracy Manager 11 May 2005		

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