

MEETING:	Council
DATE:	15 May 2002
SUBJECT:	Application of Political Balance Rules to the Allocation of Seats on Council Bodies
REPORT OF:	David Robinson, Member Services Manager
<u>Purpose:</u>	To bring before the Council information governing the allocation of seats for the 2002/03 Council year in order that proposals and nominations can be considered.
<u>Contact:</u>	David Robinson, Member Services Manager. Telephone 01323 415022 or internally on extension 5022, or Peter Finnis, Head of Democratic Services, Telephone 01323 41503 or internally on extension 5003.

1.	<u>Introduction</u>	
1.1	A meeting of Group Leaders and Deputy Leaders was held on Wednesday 8 May 2002. An earlier version of this report was presented to the meeting.	
2.	<u>Current Structure (Leader and Cabinet Model)</u>	
2.1	This paper is based on the current structure as formally adopted by the Council on 24 April 2002.	
2.2	Base percentages:-	
	No. of Councillors: 27	% seats on Council

	Liberal Democrats 15	56
	Conservatives 12	44
2.3	Committees. The proposed allocation of seats in accordance with the rules is as follows:-	

	Committee	No. of Seats	Liberal Democrats	Conservatives
	Scrutiny	7	4	3
	Best Value Mgt.	5	3	2
	Planning & Lisc.	8	5	3
	Standards	3	2	1
	Area	8	5	3
	Totals:	31	19	12

2.4 It is recognised that the allocation of 12 seats to the Conservative Group on the committees listed above is below that to which they would receive if it had been possible to allocate a number in strict proportion to their number of seats on the Council as a whole (i.e. 44% of 31 equals 13.6 seats). The allocation is, however, in accordance with size of committees provided for in the Council's Constitution and otherwise in accordance with the rules on proportionality which guarantee the controlling group a majority of seats on each committee.

2.5 Other Bodies

	Body	No. of Seats	Liberal Democrats	Conservatives

	Cons Area Adv.	3	2	1
	Tenants Advisory	5	3	2
	Place to Enjoy Forum	3	2	1
	Cleansing and Highways Forum	2	1	1
	Downland Forum	4	2	2
	Town Centre Action Group	4	2	2
	Totals:	21	12	9
2.6	Joint Staff Committee. The current constitution provides for the 6 seats to be shared equally between the two largest groups.`			
2.7	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.			
2.8	Task Groups and Best Value Review Teams. 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				
Member Services Manager				
9 May 2002				
Background papers:				
Agenda and papers, including guidance notes on the application of the political balance rules, as submitted to the Leaders' meeting on 8 May 2002.				

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