

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Council</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Wednesday 14 May 2003</b>		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Application of Political Balance Rules to the Allocation of Seats on Council Bodies</b>		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>David Robinson, Member Services Manager</b>		
<b><u>Purpose:</u></b>	To bring before Council information governing the allocation of seats for the 2003/04 Council year in order that proposals and nominations can be considered.		
<b><u>Contact:</u></b>	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.		
<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Introduction</u></b>		
<b>1.1</b>	A meeting of Group Leaders and Deputy Leaders was held on Wednesday 7 May 2003. An earlier version of this report was presented to that meeting.		
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Current Structure (Executive Arrangements - Leader and Cabinet)</u></b>		
<b>2.1</b>	This paper is based on the current structure as first formally adopted on 24 April 2002 and amended at the last Council meeting on 16 April 2003:-		
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Base percentages:-</b>		
	No. of Councillors: 27	% seats on Council	
	Liberal Democrats 14	52	

	Conservatives 13		48	
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Committees.</b> The proposed allocation of seats in accordance with the rules is as follows:-			
	<b>Committee</b>	<b>No. of Seats</b>	<b>Controlling Group</b>	<b>Opposition</b>
	Scrutiny	7	4	3
	Planning & Lisc.	8	5	3
	Standards*	4	2	2
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>
	(* The political balance rules do not apply to the Standards Committee and the Council has recently amended their Constitution to provide for both Groups to be equally represented on this Committee).			
<b>2.4</b>	It is recognised that the allocation of 8 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. 48% of 19 equals 9 seats). The allocation is, however, in accordance with size of committees provided for in the Council's Constitution and otherwise in accord with the rules on proportionality which guarantee the controlling group a majority of seats on each committee.			
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Other Bodies</b>			
	<b>Body</b>	<b>No. of Seats</b>	<b>Controlling Group</b>	<b>Opposition</b>
	Cons Area Adv.	4	2	2
	Tenants Advisory	6	3	3
	Performance Management Task Group	5	3	2

	Grants Task Group	3	2	1
	Place to Enjoy Forum	3	2	1
	Cleansing and Highways Forum	2	1	1
	Downland Forum	4	2	2
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2.6</b>	Adjustments may be made to give the controlling group a majority of seats, however, past Council practice has been to allow an equality of seats on some advisory and consultative notwithstanding one party's superior number of Council seats.			Borough bodies
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Joint Staff Committee.</b> The current constitution provides for the 6 seats to be shared equally between the two largest groups.`			
<b>2.8</b>	<b>Eastbourne Buses Board.</b> 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.			
<b>2.9</b>	<b>Other Task Groups and Best Value Review Teams.</b> 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.			
<b><u>David Robinson</u></b>				
<b><u>Member Services Manager</u></b>				
<b><u>8 May 2003</u></b>				
<b><u>Background papers:</u></b>				
<b><u>Agenda and papers, including guidance notes on the application of the political balance rules, as submitted to the Leaders' meeting on 7 May 2003.</u></b>				