

Committee: Council

Date: 10 July 2013

Agenda item: 16

Wards: All

Subject: Proportionality and Appointment of Group Nominations

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

Lead Member: Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Leader of the Council

Contact Officer: David Dunford, Assistant Head of Democracy Services

Recommendation:

That Council approves the allocation of seats to political groups and the appointment of nominees to those seats as detailed in the appendix to this report (appendix to follow). N.B. The appendix was not submitted. See the appendices to the minutes of this meeting comprising Conservative and Merton Coalition proposals.

1. Purpose of report and executive summary

1.1 This report is presented in the context of the recent revision to the number of political groups represented on the Council. In particular, it recommends that, where changes to the allocation of seats to political groups have arisen in accordance with the principles of proportionality, Council allocates the requisite number of seats to each of those political groups and to the appointment of the political groups' nominees to those seats.

2. Alternative options

2.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to review the representation of different political groups on the Council in order to ensure that a 'political balance' is secured on council committees, sub-committees etc. so as to reflect the overall political composition of the Council.

3. Consultation undertaken or proposed

3.1 Political groups are being advised of the seat allocations due to them and are being invited to make their appointments to those seats.

Timetable

3.2 The Council must review the allocation of seats to political groups when there is a change in the political balance of the Council.

4. Legal and statutory implications

4.1 The Housing and Local Government Act 1989 contains provisions concerning the political balance on committees, the duty to allocate seats to political groups, and the duty to give effect to allocations.

- 4.2 The Council is under a statutory duty to review the representation of different political groups on the Council in order to ensure that a 'political balance' is secured on council committees, sub-committees etc. so as to reflect the overall political composition of the Council.
- 4.3 Once the review has been completed there is a second statutory duty to make a determination as to political representation. This requirement to allocate seats must be made in accordance with the following statutory principles:
- a) All of the seats are not to be allocated to the same political group.
 - b) The majority of the seats go to the political group with a majority on the full Council.
 - c) Subject to the above two principles, the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees of the Council allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.
 - d) Subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary committee of the Council allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion on the full Council.
- 5. Financial, Resource, Property, Human Rights, Equalities, Community Cohesion, Crime & Disorder, Risk Management and Health and Safety Implications**
- 5.1 None for the purpose of this report.
- 6. Appendices – the following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report**
- 6.1 Appendix – Seat allocations to Political Groups and Political Group nominations to those seats. Appendix not submitted - see appendices to the minutes comprising Conservative and Merton Coalition proposals.
- 7. Background Papers**
- 7.1 None for the purpose of this report.