

Calculation of Political Balance (May 2022)

Political Balance

1.1 The political balance of the Council would be as follows:

| Political Party | Number of seats on the Council | Proportion expressed as a percentage |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Liberal Democrats | 16 | 33.33% |
| Conservative | 13 | 27.08% |
| Tunbridge Wells Alliance | 9 | 18.75% |
| Labour | 7 | 14.58% |
| Unallocated | 3 | 6.25% |
| Totals | 48 | 99.99% |

1.2 The political balance legislation requires that committees are established to reflect the overall political balance of the Council. The Council must allocate seats on committees and other prescribed bodies so as to give effect to the political balance rules.

1.3 Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out four rules, and requires authorities to apply them in descending order of priority:

- 1) When some or all of the members of an authority have formed into two or more political groups, then no committee may comprise just members from one political group;
- 2) Where a majority of members of the Council are members of one political group, that political group must have a majority of the seats on each committee;
- 3) Without being inconsistent with the first two rules, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all the committees taken together be as near as possible proportionate to their strength on the Council; and
- 4) So far as is consistent with rules 1-3, each political party must be allocated that number of seats on each committee taken individually as is proportionate to their strength on the Council.

Allocation of seats on committees

1.4 For the purposes of allocating seats, the Cabinet Advisory Boards are committees of the Full Council and must be treated in the same way as all other committees.

1.5 The allocation applies in respect of the number of 'ordinary' seats, but not including substitute seats.

1.6 The total allocation of seats applied to each political group does not include the Cabinet (or any Cabinet sub-committees, working groups or Executive appointments), which are not subject to the statutory rules on political balance.

1.7 The table below sets out the total number of applicable committee seats:

| Applicable committees | Total number of seats on each committee |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Appeals Committee | 5 |
| Audit & Governance Committee | 8 |
| General Purposes Committee | 8 |
| Investigating & Disciplinary Committee | 5 |
| Licensing Committee | 15 |
| Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 12 |
| Planning Committee | 14 |
| Communities & Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board | 11 |
| Finance & Governance Cabinet Advisory Board | 11 |
| Planning & Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board | 11 |
| Total | 100 |

1.8 The table below sets out the overall allocation of seats to each political group across all committees, in accordance with the above political balance (rule 3):

| Political group | Overall allocation of seats to all committees |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Liberal Democrats | 33 |
| Conservative | 27 |
| Tunbridge Wells Alliance | 19 |
| Labour | 15 |
| Unallocated seats | 6 |
| Total | 100 |

1.9 A political group can only be formed if it has at least two elected members. The political balance legislation requires that the unallocated seats are given to those members who are not part of a political group.

1.10 Noting the calculations on the final page, the table below sets out the allocation of seats to each political group and independents on each committee in accordance with the above political balance (rule 4) which must be consistent with the totals in the table under paragraph 1.8 (rule 3).

| Committees | LIB | CON | TWA | LAB | Ind |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Appeals Committee | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Audit & Governance Committee | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| General Purposes Committee | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Investigating & Disciplinary Committee | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Licensing Committee | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Planning Committee | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Communities & Economic Development C.A.B. | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Finance & Governance C.A.B. | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Planning & Transportation C.A.B. | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 33 | 27 | 19 | 15 | 6 |
| Total para 1.8 | 33 | 27 | 19 | 15 | 6 |

1.11 The table below summarises the changes to particular committees as a result of rebalancing:

Calculation of seats on each committee

| | Lib Dem | Cons | TWA | Lab | Ind |
|--|---------|------|-----|-----|-----|
|--|---------|------|-----|-----|-----|

Appeals Committee (5 seats)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Calculation | 1.65 | 1.35 | 0.93 | 0.72 | 0.31 |
| Rebalanced | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Audit and Governance Committee (8 seats)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| Calculation | 2.66 | 2.16 | 1.5 | 1.16 | 0.5 |
| Rebalanced | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

General Purposes Committee (8 seats)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| Calculation | 2.66 | 2.16 | 1.5 | 1.16 | 0.5 |
| Rebalanced | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Investigating and Disciplinary Committee (5 seats)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Calculation | 1.65 | 1.35 | 0.93 | 0.72 | 0.31 |
| Rebalanced | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Licensing Committee (15 seats)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Calculation | 4.99 | 4.06 | 4.06 | 2.18 | 0.93 |
| Rebalanced | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 |

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12 seats)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Calculation | 3.99 | 3.24 | 2.25 | 1.74 | 0.75 |
| Rebalanced | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

Planning Committee (14 seats)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Calculation | 4.66 | 3.79 | 2.62 | 2.04 | 0.87 |
| Rebalanced | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Communities and Economic Development CAB (11 seats)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Calculation | 3.66 | 2.97 | 2.06 | 1.60 | 0.68 |
| Rebalanced | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

Finance and Governance CAB (11 seats)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Calculation | 3.66 | 2.97 | 2.06 | 1.60 | 0.68 |
| Rebalanced | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

Planning and Transportation CAB (11 seats)

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Calculation | 3.66 | 2.97 | 2.06 | 1.60 | 0.68 |
| Rebalanced | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

TOTAL

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Total of each committee | 33 | 27 | 19 | 15 | 6 |
| Total of all committees from para 1.8 | 33 | 27 | 19 | 15 | 6 |