

Political Proportionality Rules and Calculations

1. The table below shows the percentages used in producing the allocations which appear in this document. Where the word 'proportion' is used it also means percentage.

Political Group	Seats on Fire Authority	Seats on Fire Authority (%)
Labour	12	52.17
Conservative	7	30.43
Liberal Democrat	2	8.70
Independent	2	8.70
Total	23	100.00

2. The Principles in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 that need to be followed as far as reasonably practical are:

- (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
- (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
- (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
- (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

3. The descriptions below take into account, wherever possible, the following:

Rounding up from 0.5 and above

Rounding down from below 0.5

Where an additional seat needs to be allocated, but no group has 0.5 and above, the seat is allocated to the Group with the highest proportion below 0.5

4. Whilst noting Principle (a), no options are presented with the Labour Group taking all of the seats on any body.

5. The table below presents a scenario where the Labour Group is initially given the majority of seats on each body. There are 34 seats available, but here 38 are allocated.

PRINCIPLE (b)							
MAJORITY OF SEATS INITIALLY ALLOCATED TO THE MAJORITY GROUP							
BALANCE OF SEATS ALLOCATED TO OTHER GROUPS USING PROPORTION CALCULATION ROUNDING UP 0.5 OR OVER.							
		Estates and Property Committee (8 Seats)	Performance and Overview Committee (8 Seats)	Pay and Performance Committee (Staffing Committee) (7 Seats)	Governance and Constitution Committee (7 Seats)	Joint Consultative Committee (4 Seats)	Total no of seats available (34 seats)
Con	%	30.43	30.43	30.43	30.43	30.43	9
	Calc	2.43	2.43	2.13	2.13	1.22	
	Rounded	2	2	2	2	1	
Lab	Majority	5	5	4	4	3	21
Lib Dem	%	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	4
	Calc	0.70	0.70	0.61	0.61	0.36	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	0	
Ind	%	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	4
	Calc	0.70	0.70	0.61	0.61	0.36	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	0	
Totals		9	9	8	8	4	38

6. The table below shows the allocation taking into account the total number of available seats having applied the percentages for each Group. This complies with Principle (c) and allocates the right total number of seats.

PRINCIPLE (c)			
THIS SHOWS THE OVERALL NUMBER OF SEATS ALLOCATED BY APPLYING THE PERCENTAGES ATTRIBUTABLE TO EACH GROUP ROUNDING UP 0.5 OR OVER.			
Political Group	%	Calculation – Proportion of 34 Seats	Number of seats allocated per Group
Conservative	30.43	10.35	10
Labour	52.17	17.74	18
Liberal Dem	8.70	2.96	3
Independent	8.70	2.96	3
Totals	100	34	34

7. The table below applies the proportions to each individual body. Too many seats are allocated (35, rather than 34). Some bodies have more allocations than required and one has less than required.

PRINCIPLE (d)							
SEATS ALLOCATED ON THE INDIVIDUAL BODIES WHERE POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY RULES APPLY							
ROUNDING UP 0.5 OR ABOVE							
		Estates and Property Committee * (8 Seats)	Performance and Overview Committee * (8 Seats)	Pay and Performance Committee (7 Seats)	Governance and Constitution Committee (7 Seats)	Joint Consultative Committee* (4 Seats)	Total number of seats allocated
Con	%	30.43	30.43	30.43	30.43	30.43	9
	Calc	2.43	2.43	2.13	2.13	1.22	
	Rounded	2	2	2	2	1	
Lab	%	52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17	18
	Calc	4.17	4.17	3.65	3.65	2.09	
	Rounded	4	4	4	4	2	
Lib Dem	%	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	4
	Calc	0.70	0.70	0.61	0.61	0.36	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	0	
Ind	%	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	4
	Calc	0.70	0.70	0.61	0.61	0.36	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	0	
Totals		8	8	8 (+1)	8 (+1)	3 (-1)	35 (+1)

8. In order to achieve, as far as reasonably practicable the Principles in Section 15, it is necessary to look closely at the table set out above.
9. This does not, on the face of it, achieve Principle (b). However, provided that the Labour Group has the Chairs of those bodies that have an even number of seats (marked with an asterisk in the Table), because the Chair is able to exercise a casting vote the Labour Group will have the majority on all of the bodies.
10. It does not achieve Principle (c). The Conservative Group needs a further seat. The simplest solution is to allow it to take the 'missing' seat on the Joint Consultative Committee. The Liberal Democrat and Independent Groups both have an extra seat. They need to give up a seat each (one seat on Pay and Performance Committee and one seat on Governance and Constitution Committee).

11. The table below shows the requirements explained above, sometimes referred to as 'truing up'.

Political Group	Number of Seats		'True Up'
	Allocations per Body (Principle (c))	Allocations per Overall (Principle (d))	
Conservative	10	9 (-1)	Takes seat on Joint Consultative Committee
Labour	18	18	
Liberal Democrat	3	4 (+1)	Gives up 1 seat on Pay and Performance Committee or Governance and Constitution Committee
Independent	3	4 (+1)	Gives up 1 seat on Pay and Performance Committee or Governance and Constitution Committee
Totals	34	35 (+1)	