

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	13	56.52
Conservative	7	30.43
Independent	2	8.70
Total	22	95.65

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. This allocates to all 34 available seats.

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
Ind	%	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	4
	Calc	0.70	0.70	0.61	0.61	0.35	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	0	
Totals		8	8	7	7	4	34

6. The table below shows the allocation taking into account the overall total number of available seats having applied the percentages for each Group. This complies with Principle (c), but as can be seen it allocates two seats less than the total number of seats to be allocated. This can partly be explained by the fact that there is one non-grouped Member on the Fire Authority.

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	56.52	19.22	19
Independent	8.70	2.96	3
Totals	95.65	32.53	32

7. The table below applies the proportions to each individual body. This allocates to 33 of the 34 available seats.

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	%	56.52	56.52	56.52	56.52	56.52	20
	Calc	4.52	4.52	3.96	3.96	2.26	
	Rounded	5	5	4	4	2	
Ind	%	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	4
	Calc	0.70	0.70	0.61	0.61	0.35	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	0	
Totals		8	8	7	7	3	33

8. In order to achieve, as far as reasonably practicable the Principles in Section 15, it is necessary to look closely at the table, above.
9. This does not, on the face of it, achieve Principle (b). However, provided that the Labour Group has the Chair of the Joint Consultative Committee, because the Chair is able to exercise a casting vote, the Labour Group will have the majority on all of the bodies.
10. The table below shows the results of applying Principles (c) and(d). Some 'truing up' is required. See suggestions/possible solutions in paragraphs 11. to 13.

Political Group	Number of Seats		'Truing'
	Allocations Overall (Principle (c))	Allocations per Body (Principle (d))	
Conservative	10	9	Requires one additional seat
Labour	19	20	Should give up one seat
Independent	3	4	Should give up one seat
Totals	32	33	

11. The Labour Group needs to give up one seat. This seat can only be from Estates and Property Committee, or Performance and Overview Committee (in order that the Group maintains the majority on the other Committees). It has indicated that it will give up a seat on the Estates and Property Committee. This seat could be taken by the Conservative Group.
12. The Independent Group needs to give up one seat. This seat can be from any of the Committees (although it should not be from Pay and Performance, as the Leaders of the Political Groups normally sit on that Committee). The seat it gives up should, ideally, be from a different Committee from the one given up by the Labour Group. Last year it gave up the seat on Governance and Constitution Committee. That seat was given to the non-grouped Liberal Democrat Member of the Fire Authority.
13. This still leaves one unallocated seat, on the Joint Consultative Committee. This Committee has not met for a number of years and may well not be required to do so during 2024-25. The Labour Group has indicated that it would be happy for this seat to be given to the non-grouped Liberal Democrat Member of the Fire Authority.