Political Proportionality Rules and Calculations

1. The following table shows the percentages used in producing the calculations which appear later in this section:

Group	Seats on Fire Authority	Percentage of Seats on Fire Authority (%)
Conservative	8	34.78
Labour	13	56.52
Democratic	2	8.70
Total	23	100.00

2. The Principles in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 concerned with the 'duty to allocate seats to political groups' that need to be followed as far as reasonably practicable 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. We can ignore Principle (a) as no calculations below contravene that Principle.

4. The table below presents a scenario where the majority group is initially given the majority of seats on each body. This complies with Principle (b).

PRINCIPLE (b)
MAJORITY OF SEATS INITIALLY ALLOCATED TO THE MAJORITY GROUP
BALANCE OF SEATS ALLOCATED TO OTHER GROUPS USING WHOLE NUMBERS AND THEN TO HIGHEST PART OF A WHOLE

		No of seats allocated on New Decision-Making Body (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Performance and Overview Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Pay and Performance Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Governance and Constitution Committee (6 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Joint Consultative Committee (4 Seats)	Total no of seats allocated
Conservative	%	34.78	34.78	34.78	34.78	34.78	**9**
	Calc	2.43	2.43	2.43	2.09	1.39	
	Rounded	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**1**	
Labour	Majority of seats on each body	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**3**	**19**
Democratic	%	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	**3**
	Calc	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.52	0.35	
	Rounded	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	
Totals		**7**	**7**	**7**	**6**	**4**	**31**

5. The table below shows the allocation taking into account the total number of available seats set against the political proportions on the Fire Authority. It is these figures which the allocations should seek to achieve. This complies with Principle (c).

PRINCIPLE (c)
THIS SIMPLY SHOWS THE OVERALL NUMBER OF SEATS ALLOCATED USING THE OVERALL POLITICAL PROPORTIONS ON THE FIRE AUTHORITY

Political Group	%	Calculation – Proportion of 31 Seats	Total
Conservative	34.78	10.78	11
Labour	56.52	17.52	17
Democratic	8.70	2.70	3
Totals	100	31	31

6. The table below applies the political proportions on the Fire Authority to each individual body.

PRINCIPLE (d)

SEATS ALLOCATED ON THE INDIVIDUAL BODIES WHERE POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY RULES APPLY

APPLY ROUNDING UP TO FIGURES 0.5 AND OVER AND ROUNDING DOWN IF BELOW 0.5

		No of seats allocated on New Decision-Making Body (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Performance and Overview Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Pay and Performance Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Governance and Constitution Committee (6 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Joint Consultative Committee (4 Seats)	Total no of seats allocated
Conservative	%	34.78	34.78	34.78	34.78	34.78	
	Calc	2.43	2.43	2.43	2.09	1.39	
	Rounded	2	2	2	2	1	9
Labour	%	56.52	56.52	56.52	56.52	56.52	
	Calc	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.39	2.26	
	Rounded	4	4	4	3	2	17
Democratic	%	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	
	Calc	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.52	0.35	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	0	4
Totals		7	7	7	6	3	30

7. 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 in paragraph 6 – Principle (d).

This method results in 30 seats being allocated out of 31 (one seat on the Joint Consultative Committee has not been allocated).

This does not, on the face of it, achieve Principle (b) – to provide the majority of seats to the majority group on all bodies (i.e. bodies with an even number of seats could see the Labour Group with only half of the seats). However, provided that the Labour Group has the Chairs of those bodies, it will effectively have a majority as it will have the Chair's casting vote.

Nor does it achieve Principle (c) – as the Democratic Group has 4 seats and the Conservative Group has 9 seats. However, provided that the Democratic Group gives up one seat and the Conservative Group takes it and is allowed the unallocated seat on the Joint Consultative Committee, the allocations accord with Principle (c) as far as is reasonably practicable.

8.   The table below shows the requirements explained in paragraph 7. Sometimes this is referred to as 'truing up'.

Political Group	Number of Seats		'True Up'
	Allocations per Body (Principle (d))	Allocations per Overall (Principle (c))	
Conservative	9	11	Take 1 seat from Democratic Group and allocated a further seat on the Joint Consultative Committee
Labour	17	17	Same
Democratic	4	3	Give up 1 seat to the Conservative Group
Total	30	31	

9.   This means that the groups have the following number of seats overall on the bodies caught by the political proportionality rules.

Conservative	11
Labour	17
Democratic	3