

THREE POLITICAL GROUPS PLUS ONE INDEPENDENT MEMBER

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
Labour	12	52.17%
Conservative	8	34.78%
Democratic	2	8.70%
Total	22	95.65%

NB: Independent Member not entitled to any seats on committees etc. (4.35%).

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.

Principle (a)

3. We can ignore Principle (a) as no options are presented with the Labour Group having all of the seats on any body.

Principle (b)

4. The table below presents a scenario where the Labour Group is initially given the majority of seats on each body and then the other seats are allocated using the proportion calculations. A seat is allocated wherever the calculation returns a .5 or above. This complies with Principle (b) but produces an unsatisfactory result. There are 32 seats allocated when there are only 31 available (the extra seat is allocated on Governance and Constitution Committee).

		No of seats allocated on Estates and Property Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Performance and Overview Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Pay and Performance Committee (Staffing 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 to allocate (31)
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	4	4	4	4	3	19
Democratic	%	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	4
	Calc	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.52	0.35	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	0	
Total Allocated		7	7	7	7	4	32

Principle (c)

5. The table below shows the allocation taking into account the total number of available seats set against the proportions on the Fire Authority. Rounding is applied to .5 and above. It is these figures which the allocations should seek to achieve. This complies with Principle (c). One seat is not allocated.

Political Group	%	Calculation – Proportion of 31 Seats	Total
Conservative	34.78	10.78	11
Labour	52.17	16.17	16
Democratic	8.69	2.70	3
Totals	95.65	29.65	30

Principle (d)

6. The table below applies the proportions on the Fire Authority to each individual body. A seat is allocated wherever the calculation returns .5 or above. This produces an unsatisfactory result. Only 30 seats are allocated out of 31 (the unallocated seat is on the Joint Consultative Committee) and the Labour Group does not have the majority on all committees.

PRINCIPLE (d)							
SEATS ALLOCATED ON THE INDIVIDUAL BODIES WHERE POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY RULES APPLY							
APPLY ROUNDING UP TO FIGURES 0.5 AND OVER AND DOWN IF BELOW 0.5							
		No of seats allocated on Estates and Property Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on P&O Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Pay & 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 to allocate (31)
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	%	52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17	17
	Calc	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.13	2.09	
	Rounded	4	4	4	3	2	
Democratic	%	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	4
	Calc	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.52	0.35	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	0	
Total Allocated		7	7	7	6	3	30

Achieving the Principles

7. The Labour Group will have the majority on the committees with an even number of seats (Governance and Constitution Committee and the Joint Consultative Committee) provided that Labour members chair the meetings. Labour members should, therefore, be appointed to the roles of Chair and Deputy Chair for these committees.

8. The allocations using Principle (c) and Principle (d) are shown below:

Political Group	Number of Seats	
	Allocations per Body (Principle (c))	Allocations per Overall (Principle (d))
Conservative	11	9
Labour	16	17
Democratic	3	4
	30	30

9. In order to make the allocation work satisfactorily both the Labour Group and Democratic Group need to give up a seat to the Conservative Group.
10. This still leaves one seat unallocated.