

### **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	8	34.78
Independent	3	13.04
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. We can ignore Principle (a) as no options are presented with the Labour Group taking all of the seats on any body.

4. The table below presents a scenario where the Labour Group is initially given the majority of seats on each body. A seat is then allocated to another Group for all whole numbers and any portion of a whole number 0.5 and above. This complies with Principle (b) but produces an unsatisfactory result. There are 33 seats available, but here 35 are allocated.

<b>PRINCIPLE (b)</b>							
<b>MAJORITY OF SEATS INITIALLY ALLOCATED TO THE MAJORITY GROUP</b>							
<b>BALANCE OF SEATS ALLOCATED TO OTHER GROUPS (WHOLE NUMBERS AND PART OF WHOLE NUMBERS 0.5 AND ABOVE)</b>							
		Estates and Property Committee  (7 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  (33 seats)
Con	%	34.78	34.78	34.78	34.78	34.78	<b>10</b>
	Calc	2.43	2.78	2.43	2.43	1.39	
	Rounded	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
Lab	Majority	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>
Ind	%	13.04	13.04	13.04	13.04	13.04	<b>5</b>
	Calc	0.91	1.04	0.91	0.91	0.52	
	Rounded	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
Totals		7	9	7	7	5	35

5. 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) but produces an unsatisfactory result – only 32 of the 33 seats are allocated.

<b>PRINCIPLE (c)</b>			
<b>THIS SHOWS THE OVERALL NUMBER OF SEATS ALLOCATED BY APPLYING THE PERCENTAGES ATTRIBUTABLE TO EACH GROUP. ALL ARE ROUNDED DOWN AS NO PART OF A NUMBER IS 0.5 OR ABOVE. ONE SEAT IS NOT ALLOCATED.</b>			
Political Group	%	Calculation – Proportion of 33 Seats	Number of seats allocated per Group
Conservative	34.78	11.48	<b>11</b>
Labour	52.17	17.21	<b>17</b>
Independent	13.04	4.30	<b>4</b>
Totals	100	32.99	32

6. The table below applies the proportions to each individual body.

<b>PRINCIPLE (d)</b>							
<b>SEATS ALLOCATED ON THE INDIVIDUAL BODIES WHERE POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY RULES APPLY</b>							
<b>APPLY ROUNDING UP TO PART NUMBERS 0.5 AND OVER AND DOWN IF BELOW 0.5</b>							
		Estates and Property Committee (7 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	%	34.78	34.78	34.78	34.78	34.78	<b>10</b>
	Calc	2.43	2.78	2.43	2.43	1.39	
	Rounded	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
Lab	%	52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17	52.17	<b>18</b>
	Calc	3.65	4.17	3.65	3.65	2.09	
	Rounded	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	
Ind	%	13.04	13.04	13.04	13.04	13.04	<b>5</b>
	Calc	0.91	1.04	0.91	0.91	0.52	
	Rounded	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
Totals		7	7	7	6	4	33

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 above.

8. 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. those bodies with an even number 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 casting vote.

\* indicates requirement for a Labour Chair to ensure the Labour Group has a majority on each body

9. Nor does it achieve Principle (c). Although all 33 seats are allocated, the Democratic Group has 5 seats and the Conservative Group has 10 seats. Provided that the Democratic Group gives up one seat and the Conservative Group takes it, the allocations appear to be satisfactory.

10. The table below shows the requirements explained above, sometimes referred to as ‘truing up’.

Political Group	Number of Seats		‘True Up’
	Allocations per Principle (c)	Allocations per Principle (d)	
Conservative	11	10	Takes 1 seat from Ind
Labour	17	18	
Independent	4	5	Gives up 1 seat to Con
Totals	32	33	