

ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY - 2009/10

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

1. The Council is asked to formally review the proportional political allocation of places on committees and to adopt a scheme of proportionality for the Council year 2009/10.
2. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to review committee membership and political representation annually.
3. By law seats on committees must be allocated in proportion to the political composition of the Council. Only with no Member voting against can an authority decide that it wishes to adopt an arrangement other than a proportional one.
4. The number of seats of each group on the Council and the resulting percentages are as follows:

Conservative	Lib/Dem	Labour	RA/Ind
56	13	1	10
70%	16.25%	1.25%	12.5%

NB: The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 require a constituted political group to be two or more members and, therefore, Labour cannot be considered a political group.

5. In determining the allocation of seats on ordinary committees, the proportion that each political group forms of the total membership of the Council is applied to the total number of elected Member seats on each committee. Fractional entitlements of less than one half are rounded down and entitlements of one half or more are rounded up. So that this process of rounding does not result in advantage to one political group, the aggregate membership of all the ordinary committees must also be in line with the proportions on the County Council.
6. With that in mind a scheme of proportionality for 2009/10 is attached at Annex 1.
7. In light of the new scheme of proportionality the number of substitutes appointed to committees under Standing Order 40 has been reviewed. In respect of those committees with named appointed substitutes, the proposed numbers allow approximately half of the committees' membership to be substituted. Accordingly, the Council is asked to agree amendments to Standing Order 40 (attached at Annex 2).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the committee sizes and scheme of proportionality be adopted for 2009/10 as set out in the scheme attached at Annex 1.
 - (2) That Standing Order 40 as set out in Annex 2 be agreed.
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CONTACT

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Local Government and Housing Act 1989
Proportional Representation Table
Constitution of the Council

SCHEME OF PROPORTIONALITY 2009/10

	CON	LIB/DEM	RA/IND	LAB	Total
SELECT COMMITTEES					
Adults & Community Care	7	2	1	1	11
Schools and Learning	7	2	2	0	11
Children & Families	7	2	1	0	10
Corporate Management	7	2	1	0	10
Safer and Stronger Communities	7	1	2	0	10
Environment & Economy	7	2	1	0	10
Transportation	7	2	1	0	10
Health Scrutiny	8	1	1	0	10
PLANNING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE	7	2	2	0	11
AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	4	1	1	0	6
PERSONNEL AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE	4	1	1	0	6
	72	18	14	1	105
NON-PROPORTIONAL BODIES					
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	4	1	1	0	6
TOTAL	76	19	15	1	111
SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY	6	2	1	0	9

Note: Local Committees comprise the County Councillors for the electoral divisions within each Borough/District area and are not therefore required to be politically proportional.

SUBSTITUTES

40. The following procedure will apply to the appointment of substitutes:
- (a) A substitute Member will only attend if the appointed Member cannot do so;
 - (b) Political groups are permitted substitutes on each committee (except for local committees) in the ratio: Conservative Group 3, Liberal Democrat Group 1; Residents' Associations/Independent Group 1, subject to paragraph (f) below;
 - (c) Substitute members may attend meetings in that capacity only:
 - (i) to take the place of the ordinary Member for whom they are the designated substitute;
 - (ii) where the ordinary Member will be absent for the whole of the meeting; and
 - (iii) after notifying the proper officer as set out in paragraph (d) below.
 - (d) Attendance of a substitute at a forthcoming meeting will be notified in writing to the Democratic Services Lead Manager as soon as possible and by no later than half an hour before the start of the meeting. Either the absent Member or a group representative can notify; the substituting Member cannot give the notice. The Committee Manager will notify the Chairman of any substitutes at the start of the meeting.
 - (e) The principle of substitute membership will apply to appointed County Councillor Members and not to ex officio Members or co-opted Members except for those representing: (i) the Church or parent governors; and (ii) district/borough council Members of local committees where named substitutes will be appointed on the nomination of each district/borough council.
 - (f) In the event of the long-term illness, death or resignation of a County Councillor, in addition, a substitute may be allocated to each appropriate committee, without affecting the rules in the preceding sub-paragraphs, but until a by-election has taken place no permanent appointment may be made to fill the vacancy.
 - (g) The Council will appoint named substitutes to serve on the Planning and Regulatory Committee in the ratio Conservatives 4; Liberal Democrats 1; Residents' Associations/Independent Group 1.

- (h) The Council will appoint named substitutes to serve on the Personnel and Appointments Committee and its Appointments Sub-Committee, comprising up to seven Executive Members and six Members each from the Liberal Democrat and Residents' Associations/Independent Groups, subject to no more than 50% of the membership of the Committee/Sub-Committee being substituted on any one occasion.
- (i) The Council will appoint a pool of substitutes for the Health Scrutiny Committee, comprising up to four Conservative Group Members, up to three Liberal Democrat Group Members, and up to three Residents' Associations Group Members, subject to no more than four Members of the Committee being substituted on any one occasion.

The substitution rules will not apply to Executive Members attending meetings of the Executive.