

## **APPOINTMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES**

### **Calculation of committee places**

(1) This note advises on the allocation of committee places to political groups and representation on the joint authorities in the light of the relative strength of the groups, which, as there were no May elections, remains as follows:

Conservative	24 seats	36.36%
Labour	21 seats	31.82%
Liberal Democrat	20 seats	30.30%
Independent	1 seat	1.52%
	66 seats	<b>Totals</b> 100.00%

(2) Based on the above percentages, the following table indicates the arithmetical entitlement to places that each group would have for different sizes of committee. The figures are rounded up or down (with the precise entitlement shown in brackets). In the case of rounding up, priority is given to the party with the higher figure after the decimal point.

	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Lib/Dem</u>
15 places	5 (5.454)	5 (4.773)	5 (4.545)
12 places	4 (4.363)	4 (3.818)	4 (3.636)
11 places	4 (4.000)	4 (3.500)	3 (3.333)
10 places	4 (3.636)	3 (3.182)	3 (3.030)
9 places	3 (3.272)	3 (2.864)	3 (2.727)
8 places	3 (2.909)	3 (2.546)	2 (2.424)
7 places	3 (2.545)	2 (2.234)	2 (2.121)
6 places	2 (2.182)	2 (1.909)	2 (1.818)
5 places	2 (1.818)	2 (1.591)	1 (1.515)
4 places	2 (1.454)	1 (1.273)	1 (1.212)
3 places	1 (1.091)	1 (0.955)	1 (0.909)

### **Allocation of committee places**

(3) The Council has firstly to apply the percentages in (1) above to the overall number of committee places (members of the Cabinet and the Standards Committee are not included in those calculations). Applying those percentages and based upon the probable\* total of **119** committee places (see (4) below), the three political groups would be entitled to a **total** of committees places as shown below:

Conservative	43.27 rounded down to	43
Labour	37.87, rounded up to	38
Liberal Democrat	36.06, rounded down to	36

That totals 117, but there is no automatic entitlement to the remaining two places.

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\* assuming a membership of 10 on the Scrutiny Partnership Board

(4) Applying the arithmetical entitlement in (2) above to **individual** committees would result in the following allocations:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Places</u>	<u>Con</u>	<u>Lab</u>	<u>L/Dem</u>
Audit and Risk Management	6	2	2	2
Employment and Appointments	6	2	2	2
Licensing Act 2003 Cttee	15	5	5	5
Licensing, Health & Safety etc.	10	4	3	3
Pensions	10	4	3	3
Planning	12	4	4	4
Children & Young People	10	4	3	3
Economy & Regeneration	10	4	3	3
Health & Well-being	10	4	3	3
Sustainable Communities	10	4	3	3
Council Excellence	10	4	3	3
Scrutiny Programme Board	10	4	3	3
<u>Total</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>37</u>

(5) Comparing those totals with each group's total entitlement (in brackets) leaves the following situation:

Total	45 (43)	37 (38)	37 (36)
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### **Adjustments**

(6) It is therefore necessary to make an adjustment to the allocation of places – the Conservative group has to give up two places and the Liberal Democrats one; the Labour group should receive one extra place. That leaves two places unallocated. In the past, such places have been offered to any independent members, though there is no actual entitlement in the case of a single member, who can not count as a political group.

### **Joint Authorities**

(7) Appointments to outside organisations (elsewhere on the agenda) require that appointments to the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (4 places), the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (4 places) and the Merseyside Police Authority (2 places) should be made so as to reflect the political composition of the Council.

(8) In terms of the Fire and Transport appointments, the appropriate allocation would be 2 Conservative (1.454), 1 Labour (1.273) and 1 Liberal Democrat (1.212), and appointments to the Police Authority should be 1 Conservative and 1 Labour member (i.e. the places allocated to the two largest parties).