Review of Proportionality

1 Following the changes to Select Committees as a result of the review of scrutiny it is the duty of the County Council to review the entitlement of political groups to seats on committees in line with the proportionality rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The rules allow adjustments to be made to make whole numbers of seats and, once the County Council has determined how adjustments should be made, appointments are made to committees on that basis.

2 The rules are as set out below:

(1) No political group can have all the places on a committee (the exception is the Cabinet).

(2) A group having an overall majority on the County Council is entitled to a majority of seats on each committee.

(3) The aggregate number of seats across all committees is allocated in accordance with each group’s entitlement.

(4) The number of seats on each committee is allocated in accordance with each group’s entitlement.

These rules are applied in descending order of importance so the critical rule is rule 2 and numbers of seats are then reconciled with rules 3 and 4. Special rules apply in relation to the co-opted members of the Children and Young People’s Services Select Committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.

3 The application of the rules requires an adjustment to be made to the number of seats on committees held by the Liberal Democrat and Labour Groups and the two independent members and the result of where this balancing will take place will be available at the Council meeting. Under the rules, when there are members of the Council who do not belong to a political group (independent members), once the division of seats between the political groups has been made then any remaining seats are allocated to any independent members by the County Council itself.

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Background Papers
None