

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Head of Corporate Services

REPORT NUMBER

H4

TO: COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING

15 April 2008

POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, a Local Authority is under a duty to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups at every annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. In addition, the composition of Committees must be approved at Annual Council each year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.2 That the ungrouped member Mr C W Arthey be appointed to serve on the Development Committee.
- 2.3 That Committee seats be allocated as set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

This report is most closely linked with the Council's significant business risk No. 4, Political Leadership and Governance. Key risks are set out below:-

<u>Risk Description</u>	<u>Likelihood</u>	<u>Seriousness or Impact</u>	<u>Mitigation Measures</u>
Members not appointed and Committee not quorate.	Very low	Critical	Discussions already held with Group Leaders.

5. KEY INFORMATION

- 5.1 Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 where a local authority is grouped for political composition purposes, the Authority is required to make arrangements to ensure that its Committees share the same political balance as the full Council. (There is only one exception to this that applies in the case of the Standards Committee).

- 5.2 The Co-opted Members and Parish Council Representatives for the Standards Committee have been appointed for four years.
- 5.3 The first step, therefore, is for the Council to approve the numerical allocation of Committee seats, and the calculation in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 is shown in Appendix 1 to this report. It will be noted from Appendix 1 that the precise figure to two decimal places is given in brackets. The calculation provides for 58 Committee seats to the various groups as follows:-

Independent	-	9 seats
Conservative	-	26 seats
Liberal Democrat	-	22 seats
Others	-	1 seat

6. **APPENDICES**

- (a) Appendix 1 – size of Committee and numerical allocation
- (b) Appendix 2 – composition of Committees.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

None.

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APPENDIX 1

COMMITTEES	NO OF SEATS	INDEPENDENT (7 MEMBERS)		CONSERVATIVE (19 MEMBERS)		LIB/DEM (16 MEMBERS)		OTHERS (1 MEMBER)	
STRATEGY	10	(1.63)	2	(4.42)	4	(3.72)	4	(0.23)	0
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (STEWARDSHIP)	9	(1.47)	2	(3.98)	4	(3.35)	3	(0.21)	0
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES)	9	(1.47)	1	(3.98)	4	(3.35)	4	(0.21)	0
DEVELOPMENT	15	(2.44)	2	(6.63)	7	(5.58)	5	(0.35)	1
LICENSING AND APPEALS	12	(1.95)	1	(5.30)	6	(4.47)	5	(0.27)	0
HADLEIGH SWIMMING POOL	3	(0.49)	1	(1.32)	1	(1.12)	1	(0.07)	0
TOTAL TARGET	58	(9.45)	9	(25.63)	26	(21.59)	22	(1.34)	1

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES**STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

N A Bennett	R E Kemp
M P Booth	M R Miller
S Carpendale	N A Ridley
A J Hinton	C M Spence
J A Jenkins	S M Wigglesworth

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (STEWARDSHIP) COMMITTEE

J Antill	A Roberts
J C Brand	H N Todd
D M Busby	D Walton
D G Grutchfield	L H Young
B Riley	

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE

S P Clarke	A Osborne
B D Hurren	J R A Sayers
J A B Long	C A Todd
M Munson	D L Wood
M Newman	

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

C W Arthey	B L Lazenby
P K Beer	D C Rose
J R B Cave	R Smith
P Gibson	R W Thake
P J Holbrook	A Ward
L Johnson	G S White
P Jones	R Whiting
D H Keane	

LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

P K Beer	J R A Sayers
R Cave	R Smith
D G Grutchfield	R W Thake
P J Holbrook	A Ward
L Johnson	G S White
B L Lazenby	L H Young

HADLEIGH AND DISTRICT SWIMMING POOL TRUST COMMITTEE

J C Brand
D H Keane
M Munson

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Representatives

S P Clarke
R E Kemp
P K Beer
P Jones

Co-opted Members

*J B Newton
*R Feltwell

Parish Council

*J G Watson
*P F Cook

*Appointed for 4 years.