

COMMITTEE: ANNUAL COUNCIL REF NO: C/19/01
DATE: 15 MAY 2019
SUBJECT: ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE PLACES
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report seeks to allocate seats to committees, working groups and outside bodies for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

This report has been prepared by Ainsley Gilbert, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 01473 432510 - Email: ainsley.gilbert@ipswich.gov.uk

Appendices to this report:

- (a) *Appendix 1 – Committee Placings 2019/20*
- (b) *Appendix 2 – Working Group, Service Panels & Outside Bodies Placings 2019/20*

This report was prepared after consultation with:

Russell Williams, Chief Executive
Helen Pluck, Chief Operating Officer
Shirley Jarlett, Monitoring Officer
Group Leaders

The following policies form a context to this report:

(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

Building a Better Ipswich 2017

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)

1. Spreadsheet showing calculations

OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)

1. Local Government and Housing Act 1989
2. Local Authorities (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended)
3. Police and Justices Act 2006

1. Committee Places

- 1.1 The law (Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) requires the Council to review the allocations of committee seats at its Annual Meeting.
- 1.2 Political Groups represented on the Council are entitled to register themselves with the Council. Registered Political Groups are entitled to a proportionate number of seats on the committees. At Ipswich Borough Council, the Council's general practice has been to apply the rules to the Groups as if they were registered.
- 1.3 The proportionality rules are set out below in decreasing order of importance:
- Not all members of any committee should be from the same Political Group.
 - If a Group has a majority of seats on the Council, then it must have a majority of seats on every committee.
 - Subject to the previous rules, a Group should overall have a total number of committee seats that is as proportionate as possible to the number of Council seats held by that group.
- 1.4 Subject to the previous rules, each individual committee should be as proportionate as possible.
- 1.5 The overall number of seats available on the relevant Council committees will be 48 for the next municipal year and the committee places are allocated as follows:

**Strategic Overview and Scrutiny
(13)**

Conservative 2
Labour 10
Lib Dem 1

Licensing and Regulatory (15)

Conservative 3
Labour 11
Lib Dem 1

Planning and Development (13)

Conservative 2
Labour 10
Lib Dem 1

**Audit & Governance
Committee (7)**

Conservative 2
Labour 5

- 1.6 In addition to the Portfolio Holder, the Councillor places on the Portfolio Holder Working Groups will be filled as follows:
- Conservative 2
 - Labour 3
 - Liberal Democrat 1

1.7 In addition to the Portfolio Holder, the Councillor places on the Service Panels will be filled as follows:

- Conservative 1
- Labour 2
- Liberal Democrat 1

except for the three Area Housing Panels, where the places will be filled in accordance with the political balance of the wards covered by the three areas.

2. Risk Management

- 2.1. The main risks associated with the allocation of committee seats is that if the Council does not comply with the law then there would be a risk of judicial review.
- 2.2. This would cause the Council significant financial loss and adverse publicity. The chance of this risk occurring is considered to be low because the Council is receiving clear legal advice and has previously accepted such advice.

3. Financial Considerations

- 3.1 This report has no financial implications.

4. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. Equalities & Diversities Issues

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. To allocate seats on the Committees as set out below with immediate effect:

	Conservative	Labour	Lib Dem
Strategic O & S	2	10	1
Audit & Governance	2	5	0
Licensing & Regulatory	3	11	1
Planning & Development	2	10	1
TOTALS	9	36	3

- 6.2. To appoint the members of the five Area Committees, Colchester & Ipswich Joint Museums Committee, Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Planning & Development Committee, Licensing & Regulatory Committee, Audit and Governance Committee, and Shared Revenues Partnership Joint Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2020 as per Appendix 1.**
- 6.3 To appoint Councillors to serve on the Service Panels and as representatives on Outside Bodies for the period to the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2020 as per Appendix 2.**
- 6.4 To appoint the Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2020 as per Appendix 2.**