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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ANNUAL COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>17 MAY 2016</b>
<b>REPORT OF THE:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE JANET WAGGOTT</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES BETWEEN POLITICAL GROUPS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend the allocation of seats on committees to political groups and the appointment of Members to Committees for 2016/2017.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council decides the following:.

1. That the Council divides Committee seats between political groups in accordance with the allocation shown at the attached **Annex A**
2. Membership of the Committees to be that shown on **Annex B**.
3. That the membership of the Licensing Committee be the same Members as appointed to the Planning Committee.
4. That the Annual Meeting of Council elects the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Standing Committees with the exception of the Licensing Committee.
5. That the terms of reference of the Policy & Resources Committee, Licensing Committee, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Planning Committee and the Scheme of Officer Delegation are those set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution as amended.
6. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from the changes referred to above.

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To allow for the allocation of seats and appointment of members to committees to

which Group Leaders have agreed.

- 3.2 To comply with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended.

#### **4.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

- 4.1 Ryedale District Council is to be treated as being divided into different political groups for the purposes of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, because at least one political group has been constituted in the prescribed way.

- 4.2 The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and associated regulations, requires the distribution of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees to be on the basis of political proportionality so far as it is “reasonably practicable” between the political groups of the Council unless every Member of the Council agrees that some other basis of allocation should be used.

- 4.3 The distribution of Committee places between the groups needs to have regard to these rules.

- 4.4 Political proportionality on Committees is achieved in the following two stages:-

4.4.1 the first stage is the allocation of numbers of seats on Committees to each political group.

4.4.2 the second stage is the giving effect to such allocations by appointing individual Members.

If Council adopts **Annex A** the political proportionality rules apply to the following Committees of the Council:-

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	
1.	Policy & Resources Committee
2.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
3.	Planning Committee

### **REPORT**

#### **5.0 POLICY CONTEXT**

- 5.1 The strength of the political groups on the Council of 30 Members is as follows:-

Conservatives  
19 (63%)  
Liberals  
4 (13%)  
New Independents  
3 (10%)  
Liberal Democrats  
2 (6.6%)  
Independents  
2 (6.6%)

5.2 Given the political composition of the Council, political proportionality is considered to be achieved with the following Committee sizes:-

Policy & Resources	10
Overview & Scrutiny	10
Planning Committee	10

Total 30

The seats on Committees which can be allocated between the political groups, therefore, total 30 seats.

5.3 The numerical entitlements have been divided as follows (these being the nearest divisions for mathematical accuracy and having regard to the fact that whole numbers must be attained):-

	Conservative	Liberal	New Independent	Independent	Lib Dem	Total
Committees	19	4	3	2	2	30

Against this background and on the basis of group constitutions the number of seats recommended to be allocated to each political group is as follows:-

Conservative	19
Liberal	4
New Independents	3
Independents	2
Liberal Democrat	2
	<b>30</b>

5.4 Council needs to divide committee seats between political groups.

5.5 The legal obligation to ensure that there is proportionality in the political composition of Committees extends only to proportionate representation of members of political groups and does not require ungrouped single members to be proportionally represented.

5.6 To avoid the unnecessary use of Officer time the best approach is for all political groups to make nominations before or at the Annual Meeting of Council. I have discussed this matter with all the political Group Leaders who have agreed the allocation and names to the committees as attached at Annex A and B.

5.7 **Annex C** outlines the procedure should any political group not make nominations.

## 6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None

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**Background Papers:**

Local Government & Housing Act 1989 as amended.

Report to Council 14.01.16

**Background Papers are available for inspection at:**  
Ryedale House  
[www.ryedale.gov.uk](http://www.ryedale.gov.uk)

## ANNEX A

### DIVISION OF MAIN COMMITTEE SEATS FOR 2016/2017

#### Part 1. COMMITTEE SEATS

<u>Political Group</u>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Planning Committee</b>	<b>Total (30 Seats)</b>
Conservative	<b>7</b> (6.33)	<b>6</b> (6.33)	<b>6</b> (6.33)	<b>19</b>
Liberal	<b>2</b> (1.33)	<b>1</b> (1.33)	<b>1</b> (1.33)	<b>4</b>
New Independents	<b>1</b> (1)	<b>1</b> (1)	<b>1</b> (1)	<b>3</b>
Independents	<b>0</b> (0.66)	<b>1</b> (0.66)	<b>1</b> (0.66)	<b>2</b>
Lib Dem	<b>0</b> (0.66)	<b>1</b> (0.66)	<b>1</b> (0.66)	<b>2</b>
	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>

#### Part 2. LICENSING COMMITTEE

	Licensing Committee
Conservative	6
Liberal	1
New Independents	1
Independents	1
Lib Dem	1

RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCILAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES – 17 MAY 2016POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>New Independents</u>
S Arnold V M Arnold J R Bailey L Cowling L P Ives W R F H Oxley J R Raper	-	J S Clark J Andrews		P J Andrews
<u>Substitutes</u>	<u>Substitutes</u>	<u>Substitutes</u>	<u>Substitutes</u>	<u>Substitutes</u>
M J T Cleary F A Farnell C G Goodrick E Hope		T J Thornton M Potter		L M Burr

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>New Independents</u>
G Acomb D E Cussons K C Duncan R W K Gardiner R T Jainu-Deen J E Sanderson	C R Wainwright	M Potter	D E Keal	W E Jowitt

PLANNING COMMITTEE

<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>New</u>
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M J T Cleary F A Farnell J Frank C G Goodrick E Hope J A Windress	B Maud	T J Thornton	<b><u>Democrat</u></b> E L Shields	<b><u>Independents</u></b> L M Burr
<b><u>Substitutes</u></b>	<b><u>Substitutes</u></b>	<b><u>Substitutes</u></b>	<b><u>Substitutes</u></b>	<b><u>Substitutes</u></b>
S Arnold V M Arnold D E Cussons J R Raper	C R Wainwright	J Andrews J S Clark	D E Keal	P J Andrews

### **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

<b><u>Conservative</u></b>	<b><u>Independents</u></b>	<b><u>Liberal</u></b>	<b><u>Liberal Democrat</u></b>	<b><u>New Independents</u></b>
M J T Cleary F A Farnell J Frank C G Goodrick E Hope J A Windress	B Maud	T J Thornton	E L Shields	L M Burr

**NON-APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES**

If any political group does not make nominations the procedure is as follows:-

Regulation 15 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 makes provision for appointments to Committees in circumstances where a political group has failed to express its wishes in relation to the appointment of its members to Committees.

The Annual Council meeting on 17 May 2016 would review the allocation of seats to all political groups;

The next day the proper officer gives the group formal notice of the allocation of seats to that political group;

The group then has three weeks beginning with the date on which notice is received to make nominations;

There would be a vacancy in respect of the Committee seats allocated to the group not making a nomination of a Member for the seat until the next subsequent Council meeting after Annual Council ;

In the absence of a group making nominations within the three week period mentioned above, Council may make such appointment to that Committee seat as it thinks fit. In that event the political group may not have a seat on the Committee(s).