

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL POLITICAL BALANCE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (s15) and the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990 provides a statutory basis for the rights of minority groups to secure representation on Council committees in proportion to their respective political strengths within the Council.
- 1.2 Whilst it is acknowledged that these regulations only apply to principal councils, Rushden Town Council embraces the principles of proportionality in the election of Committees and its membership.

2. General Rules

In embracing the principles of proportionality, the following rules apply:

- 2.1 A political group shall consist of two or more Councillors with the intention to create a group communicated to the Town Clerk;
- 2.2 If the Council is made up of more than one political group, no committee shall be made up entirely of a single political group;
- 2.3 If any political group has overall control of the Council they shall be entitled to the majority of the seats on each committee;
- 2.4 The number of seats on the total of all the committees allocated to each political group should bear the same proportion to the proportions of the Full Council;
- 2.5 No political group can have more seats than they are entitled to.

3 Exemptions

- 3.1 The rules on political balance shall apply to the following standing committees of the Council; these being:

- Policy and Resources Committee
- Community Services Committee
- Planning Committee
- Personnel Committee

4. Calculation of Committee Places

- 4.1 Committee places shall be calculated on the total number of committee seats divided by the proportion of Full Council seats for each individual party.
- 4.2 The calculation of committee places shall take place under the following circumstances:
 - (i) Following the 4-yearly Full Elections
 - (ii) Following a Casual Vacancy being filled (either by By-Election or Co-option)

(iii) Following a defection of one Councillor to another group or ceases to be a member of a group.

4.3 In the event of (i) above representation shall be confirmed at the Annual Town Council Meeting following the elections or in the event of (ii) or (iii) at the next available Full Council Meeting.

5 Allocation of Seats

5.1 The allocation of seats on every committee and the allocation of those Councillors to those committee seats is a matter for negotiation between the group leaders. Once the allocation has been agreed this shall be communicated to Full Council for formal ratification in accordance with the provisions of Local Government Act 1972 (s101).

6 Preview of Political Balance Rules

6.1 The Political Balance Rules shall be reviewed once in the term of the Full Council in the final year ahead of the Local Council Election

Reviewed at Policy and Resources 18th February 2025

Approved Full Council 4th March 2025

Signed..........Town Mayor