

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 – NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS

Recommendation:

(1) To note that one Conservative Councillor has not signed the Conservative Group membership notification under the 1989 Act;

(2) To agree that pro rata memberships be reviewed at the next Council meeting and that in the meantime political groups and independent members be advised of the likely effect on Group allocations.

1. Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, political groups are required to provide a notice signed by Councillors who are to be their members. This notice must also be signed by the member who is to be Leader.
2. In May 2010, the Conservative Group's notice was signed by 36 of the 37 Conservative Councillors. Pro rata calculations were based on the total of 37, in anticipation that all would sign but this has not happened. The pro rata calculation is based on the number of Councillors signing the notice.
3. Under the Act, a change in group membership must trigger a review of pro rata although the outcome can often be no change. In addition to pro rata allocations under the Act, this Council seeks to allocate Chairmanships, Vice Chairmanships, Representatives on Outside Organisations (non local) and their Deputies in the same way. It should be noted that this is non statutory but is a requirement of an adopted protocol agreed some years ago.
4. The Council is asked to agree that the review should take place at the next Council meeting. The likely effect of the revised pro rata is likely to concern outside organisations only. The statutory elements are unlikely to be affected.
5. Group Leaders and independent members will be sent an analysis of any changes required before the Council so that they are able to consider the Group's revised entitlements and, if necessary, discuss these with other political groups.

Background Papers: Notice of Membership of Conservative Group – May 2010.