

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annual Council

9 May 2024

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| TITLE: | Size and Political Composition of Committees |
| CONTACT OFFICER: | Linden Vernon – Head of Democratic Services |
| WARDS INVOLVED: | None |

Appendix A – Size and Political Composition

1. Reason for the Report:

- 1.1 To inform members of the rules relating to political proportionality so that they can decide on whether any changes should be made to the committees and on their political composition.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council decides what changes if any should be made to the committees and on their political composition.

3. Background and Detail

- 3.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations lay down rules which require a balance to be maintained on all Committees between the political groups on the Council.
- 3.2 The distribution of committee places between the groups needs to have regard to these rules.
- 3.3 A political group is any group of two or more councillors who notify the Monitoring Officer that it wishes to be considered as a political group. In law it is a “group” only for the purposes of allocating places on Committees.

- 3.4 In making appointments to committees the Council must be guided by the following principles:-
- (a) Not all seats on the committees can be allocated to one political party;
 - (b) The majority of seats should be awarded to a group having a majority on the Council;
 - (c) Subject to (a) and (b) the total number of places allocated on all committees must be proportionate to the political strength on the Council as a whole;
 - (d) Subject to (c) the places on each committee must be proportionate to political strength.
- 3.5 One effect of the rules is that there is no requirement for all political groups to be represented on all committees unless the figures justify such representation. If the committee size means a smaller group does not get a place, then that is not unlawful. It is a matter for the Council to decide on the number and size of committees, the distribution of places between the groups, and for the political groups to determine their individual membership. It is also a matter for Council to allocate places to Councillors who are not members of a group.
- 3.6 Rule (d) set out in paragraph 3.4 above, gives precedence to there being political balance across the total number of committee places available rather than on each committee.
- 3.8 Appendix A sets out the position with regard to the size of committees.

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and Monitoring Officer