

Democratic Arrangements Working Group Note 31 January 2012

The Working Group have recommended a two Committee system, and have asked that every Member has a seat on one or other committee and therefore a vote in the decision making process.

The Committees will be subject to political balance. Their structure may be as follows, subject to the notes:

	Total Entitlement	Cttee 1	Cttee 2	O & S	P & L	Audit	Sts	DNP	Check
Con	37	10	9	6	6	2	2	2	37
Ind	15	4	4	2	3	0	1	1	15
LibDem	6	2 or 1	2 or 1	1	1	1	0	0	6
NonAligned	2	1 or 0	1 or 0	1					2
Total	60	16	15	10	10	3	3	3	60

Notes:

It is assumed that the existing membership of Planning and Licensing, Audit Committee, Standards and DNP are not amended.

The Lib Dem Group may decide which Committee has two Members and which Committee has one Member; the ungrouped Member will then have to sit on the Committee where the Lib Dems have one Member.

Alternative option:

There may be a view that, in order to have an effective Overview and Scrutiny function, it is important that O&S and Audit Committee Members do not sit on decision making committees. They are not precluded from speaking, but in order to undertake the 'critical challenge' role of O&S, they need to remain independent.

If that alternative option were to be proposed, the structure may look like this:

	Total Entitlement	Cttee 1	Cttee 2	O & S to include Audit	P&L	Standards	DNP	Check
Con	29	7	6	6	6	2	2	29
Ind	12	2 or 3	2 or 3	2 or 3	3	1 or 0	1 or 0	12/14
LibDem	5	1	1	1	1	1 or 0	1 or 0	4/5
NonAligned	1	1 or 0	1 or 0	1 or 0				1
Total	47	11	10	10	10	3	3	47

Notes:

The Independent Group have to choose which two Committees they appoint three Members to. The Committee containing only two Independents will be the Committee on which the NonAligned Member sits. In addition, the Independents have to give up a seat on either Standards or DNP to a Lib Dem Member (assuming they want to keep 3 seats on P&L). Similarly the Lib Dems will have two seats across P&L, Standards and DNP.

Audit Committee Members are appointed from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and will also be subject to political balance.