

**POLITICAL BALANCE AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**  
**COUNCIL, item 9**

**Committee:** COUNCIL

**Date:** 18 July 2006

**Title:** POLITICAL BALANCE AND  
APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

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**Agenda Item**

**9**

Item for  
decision

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**Summary**

This report considers the political composition of the Council following the recent Newport By-Election and recommends that Councillor Yarwood be appointed to fill vacancies on the Environment and Scrutiny Committees.

**Recommendations**

That Councillor Yarwood be appointed to fill vacancies on the Environment and Scrutiny Committees.

**Background Papers**

None.

**Impact**

Communication/Consultation	<b>Consultation carried out with relevant group leader</b>
Community Safety	<b>N/A</b>
Equalities	<b>N/A</b>
Finance	<b>N/A</b>
Human Rights	<b>N/A</b>
Legal implications	<b>To comply with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989</b>
Ward-specific impacts	<b>All</b>
Workforce/Workplace	<b>N/A</b>

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**Situation**

- 1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to review the representation on them of different political groups at the Annual meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter. It further requires them to allocate the seats on their committees to political groups represented in accordance, so far as reasonably practicable, with the following four principles of proportionality:-
  - (a) that not all seats on the body concerned are allocated to the same political group;
  - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
  - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of an authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority;
  - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

**The Council**

2 Following the election of Councillor Yarwood in the Newport by-election, the political composition of the Council is:-

<b>Group</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total Seats</b>
Liberal Democrat	27	61.36%	54
Conservative	12	27.27%	24
Independent	5	11.36%	10

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- 3 Following the death of the late Councillor Bowker, vacancies exist on the Environment and Scrutiny Committee and the Liberal Democrat Group has asked that Councillor Yarwood be appointed to serve on these Committees.

**Risk Analysis**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A