

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT, 1989  
POLITICAL BALANCE RULES**

1. The political balance rules require the Council to allocate places on relevant committees according to the strengths of the political groups on the Council.
2. The political groups and their current strengths are:-

Conservative	24
Labour	15
Liberal Democrat	9

3. Under the political balance rules a single councillor cannot constitute a political group. Therefore the BNP councillor cannot be considered a political group and is not eligible to be allocated any of the committees set out below.
4. He is however, entitled to a place on Nelson Committee because area committees must comprise all councillors for the wards in the area. In addition he will be able to put himself forward for membership of the Scrutiny 'Task and Finish' Groups.
5. The overall allocation of seats in committees is as follows:

<b><u>Total</u></b>	Con 26	Labour 16	Lib Dem 9	BNP 0
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6. This is achieved by multiplying the number of committee places by the number of members in the group and then dividing this by the overall number of eligible Councillors on the Council.
7. Membership of individual committees is as follows:

**Scrutiny Management Team (11)**

Con 5.5 (6)      Labour 3.4 (3)      Lib Dem 2.0 (2)

**Licensing (15)**

Con 7.5 (7)      Labour 4.6 (5)      Lib Dem 2.8 (3)

**Development Management (11)**

Con 5.5 (6)      Labour 3.4 (3)      Lib Dem 2.0 (2)

**Accounts and Audit (5)**

Con 2.5 (2)      Labour 1.5 (2)      Lib Dem 0.9 (1)

**Taxi and Other Licensing Committee (9)**

Con 4.5 (4)      Labour 2.81 (3)      Lib Dem 1.68 (2)

*Conservatives have one less seat than their overall entitlement and the Liberal Democrats have one more. However, the Liberal Democrats have a stronger case to be rounded up on each Committee than the Conservatives.*