

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2000

1.0 CHAIRMANSHIPS AND VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

1.1 At the meeting on 8 June 2000 the Allocations Committee asked that the LGA be consulted on how Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of the Association are allocated between Groups, so that the Allocations Committee could consider the allocation of Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of Scrutiny Committees at this meeting.

0.2 I believe that some Members of the Allocations Committee believed that the LGA took into account the votes cast for particular Political Parties when allocating seats. I understand, from a conversation with an Officer of the LGA, that the calculations are based on the proportional strengths of Groups on each of the Member Councils, but that the proportional strengths of the Group on each Council are then weighted by reference to the electorate for that Council, so that a very substantial majority of seats for one particular Party on a Council with a relatively small electorate would be more than out-weighted by a proportionately smaller majority on another Authority which had a much larger electorate. Presumably the intention of this mechanism is to try to reflect more accurately the overall support for different Political Groups across highly variable types and sizes of Local Authorities. I do not see a way in which this mechanism could be used to guide the allocation of Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships for Scrutiny Committees.

2.0 MEMBERS INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUESTED ON HOW THE RIGHT TO NOMINATE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES SHOULD BE ALLOCATED BETWEEN THE GROUPS

STEPHEN KNIGHT
Head of Committee Services