

Review of the Allocation of Seats on Committees

Final Decision-Maker	Council
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Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

Executive Summary

A review of the allocation of seats on committees has been undertaken due to a change in political groups.

Purpose of Report

Decision

This report makes the following recommendation to Council:

1. That the allocation of seats on Committees be as set out in Appendix 1 to this report; and
2. That the wishes of the Group Leaders with regard to membership of Committees be accepted.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Council Meeting	19 July 2023

Review of the Allocation of Seats on Committees

1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	There are no direct impacts on corporate priorities arising from this, but the Committees when in place discharge the functions delegated to them having regard where appropriate to the Council's strategic objectives.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Cross-Cutting Objectives	There are no direct impacts on cross-cutting objectives arising from this, but the Committees when in place discharge the functions delegated to them having regard where appropriate to the Council's cross-cutting objectives.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Risk Management	See section 5 below.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Financial	The Committees appointed having regard to the political balance requirements form part of the agreed Leader and Cabinet model of governance and as such there are no additional financial implications.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Staffing	There are no staffing implications.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Legal	The Council must allocate seats on Committees to the different political groups to reflect the size of each political group – Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It is possible to have Committees that are not politically balanced provided that when alternative arrangements are put to the vote, no Member of the	Interim Team Leader (Contentious and Corporate Governance)

	Council votes against them. The appointments to the Committees should reflect the wishes of the political groups – Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended).	
Information Governance	No personal information is provided as part of this report.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Equalities	The review will ensure an equitable political representation in the membership of Committees.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Public Health	No specific issues arise.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Crime and Disorder	No specific issues arise.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Procurement	No specific issues arise.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Biodiversity and Climate Change	No specific issues arise.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council has a statutory requirement under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to ensure political proportionality in the membership of Committees. As a result of the formation of a new Group, the composition of the Council is as follows:

Conservative	25
Liberal Democrat	12
Green Independent Alliance	6
Independent	6
Labour	4
Fant and Oakwood	2
Independents	
Total	55

- 2.2 This necessitates a review of the allocation of seats on Committees. The review must take into account the change in the composition of the Council and the basic principles of seat allocation prescribed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 2.3 Appendix 1 sets out the changes to committee places as a result of the formation of the Fant and Oakwood Independents Group and reduction in the size of the Labour Group. The Appendix sets out the outcome from the negotiation on seat adjustments between those two Groups and maintains overall political balance as required by the relevant Act.
- 2.4 Following the changes to Committee places some adjustment to Committee memberships will be required and the wishes of the Group Leaders should be accepted in this regard.
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3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The allocation of seats on individual Committees which achieves overall political balance and includes the outcome of negotiations between the relevant Groups is set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The Council could consider and debate other allocations on Committees that achieve overall political balance or it could consider some Committee seat allocations that are not politically balanced as long as no Member votes against them.
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4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the Council agree the Committee seat allocation at Appendix 1 as it maintains political balance and reflects the wishes of political groups.
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5. RISK

- 5.1 The review of the allocation of seats on Committees will ensure an appropriate political balance in membership of Committees.
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6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 6.1 Group Leaders have been made aware of this report coming to Council and no additional changes to Committee memberships have been requested beyond those outlined.
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7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 7.1 The relevant Committee memberships will be put in place.
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8. REPORT APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None