



**Council**

**18 July 2024**

Item

Public



# CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

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<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):</b>	Councillor Lezley Picton		

## 1. Synopsis

- 1.1 A recent change in group membership as a result of Councillor David Minnery joining the Liberal Democrat Group requires amendments to the distribution of seats on committees, and other bodies to which proportionality rules apply. The report also deals with other appointments.

## 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review the representation of each political group on committees, panels etc. at each annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. The regulations require that all Scrutiny, Standing and Regulatory Committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places. Subject to that overriding requirement, each committee must also be politically balanced, as far as it is reasonably practicable.
- 2.2 The Executive (Cabinet) is not subject to the political balance rules.
- 2.3 Advisory Committees and other ad hoc bodies and groups are not subject to the political balance rules either, but traditionally political proportionality has been applied to them outside the overall aggregate balance referred to in paragraph 2.1 above.

- 2.4 The Council has been advised that Councillor David Minnery is no longer a member of the Independent Group and has joined the Liberal Democrat Group.
- 2.5 Accordingly, it is necessary to review the membership of committees to reflect this change in the relative size of the political groups.
- 2.6 In order to accurately reflect the political balance of the authority, and to comply with the principles set out within the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it is recommended that an additional seat on the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee be allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group at the expense of the Independent Group.

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Council confirms the revised allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year as a consequence of the change in group membership as follows:
- a) That the composition and revised allocation of seats on its committees and other bodies as detailed in the report be approved.
  - b) That the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group provides notification of which of its members will be appointed as a member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 That the following changes to committee membership be noted:

#### Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Caroline Bagnall appointed as a substitute member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Julia Buckley

#### Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Kate Halliday appointed as a substitute member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Julia Buckley

#### South Planning Committee

Councillor Julia Buckley appointed as a substitute member of the South Planning Committee in place of Councillor Kevin Parry

## Report

### 4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The Council is obliged to ensure that the membership of committees and related bodies is proportionate to individual group membership.

### 5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious financial implications.

### 6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious impact in terms of climate change.

### 7. Background

- 7.1 The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the remainder of the coming year. In accordance with the Political Balance Rules, the revised maximum number of seats available to each of the groups will be:

Group Name	Seats per Group
Conservatives	60
Liberal Democrats	25 (+1)
Labour	14
Independent	4 (-1)
Green	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>

- 7.2 The proportionate allocation of seats to the political groups across all committees is set out in Appendix 1.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder.

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**Local Member:** All

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

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