



Annual Council

14 May 2026

Item

Public



CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

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1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report deals with the overall constitution of committees, the overall entitlement of seats for each of the political groups and the proportionate allocation of seats between the groups across all committees.

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 This report assumes that the report considered previously on Scrutiny Reorganisation/Housing Supervisory Board is approved.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That the Council confirms the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2026/27 municipal year and the allocation of seats between the political groups, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

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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 requested to approve the overall constitution of committees.
- 7.2. This requires 114 seats to be allocated proportionately across all committees and the Council is requested to approve the overall constitution as set out below:

| <u>Committee Name</u> | <u>Seats per Committee</u> |
|---|----------------------------|
| Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 11 |
| Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 11 |
| Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 11 |
| Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 11 |
| People Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 11 |
| Audit and Governance Committee | 9 |
| Northern Planning Committee | 11 |
| Pensions Committee | 4 |
| Southern Planning Committee | 11 |
| Standards Committee | 9 |
| Strategic Licensing Committee | 15 |
| Total | <u>114</u> |

8. Allocation of Seats

- 8.1. The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the coming year.
- 8.2. The maximum number of seats available to each group within the political balance rules will be:

| <u>Group Name</u> | <u>Seats per Group</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Liberal Democrats | 65 |
| Reform | 23 |
| Conservatives | 11 |
| Green and Progressive Independent | 8 |
| Labour | 6 |
| Non Aligned | 1 |
| Total | <u>114</u> |

- 8.3. The proportionate allocation of seats to the political groups across all committees is set out in Appendix 1 and the proposed allocation of these totals to individual members, in accordance with the wishes of the respective Group Leaders, is set out in Appendix 2 to this report (To Follow).
- 8.4. The Council is entitled to 11 seats on the Shropshire and Wrekin Combined Fire Authority. Under the present arrangements, the Liberal Democrat Group is entitled to 6 seats, the Reform Group 2 seats, the Conservative Group 1 seat, the Labour Group 1 seat and the Green and Progressive Independent Group 1 seat.
- 8.5. The proposed allocation of seats meets the legal requirements, however, should the Council wish, it is possible to agree allocations which are not strictly politically balanced if no Member dissents.

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.

Local Member: All

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups
Appendix 2 – Proposed Allocation of Seats to Political Groups