
Report title: Political Balance

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Karen Ashley
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
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Wards Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An Effective and Sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to RESOLVE that:-

- 1) the Political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out at Appendix 1;**
- 2) appointments by political group leaders to the places on each Committee etc. be noted;**
- 3) the Council appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 2; and**
- 4) appointments to Working Groups and other bodies listed in Appendix 2 be agreed.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report sets out the proposed political balance of the Council's Committees and seeks the Council's agreement to these. This report is required following a change to the political balance as a result of the byelection in September 2022.
- 2.2 Once the Council has agreed the political balance, the Leaders of each of the Political Groups on the Council can nominate to the places on each for their group. Councillors who are not members of a political group are appointed to Committees by the Council.

- 2.3 The Council also makes appointments to other bodies which are not required to be politically balanced.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The level of Members' allowances, based on the current number of positions as set out in this report, has been agreed previously by the Council.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 With the exception of the Executive Committee, the Council is required by law and / or its own constitution to allocate places on its main Committees in accordance with its political make-up and to approve the Committee terms of reference. The main requirements are that:

- the number of seats on each Committee allocated to each Political Group reflects the proportion it holds of the total number of seats on the Council;
- the Group with the majority of seats on the Council should hold the majority of seats on each Committee.

- 4.2 The definition of a Political Group for these purposes is that it has a minimum of 2 members. The current composition of the Council is 19 Conservative, 8 Labour, 1 Green Party Councillor and 1 independent Member.

- 4.3 When considering the political balance, the group leaders took into account the current rules in the Council's constitution in respect of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. These rules require that:

- The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee shall not be a member of the controlling group.
- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be a member of a political group not forming part of the ruling administration.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 The proposals detailed in this report support the strategic purpose 'An Effective and Sustainable Council'.
- 5.2 The Council is required to consider the political balance when changes are made to the composition of the membership of the authority and this report enables the Council to address this requirement.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 There are no climate change implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 Once the Council has agreed the allocation of seats to the main Committees, the leaders of each political group will nominate members to fill them so that the business of the Council can continue to run smoothly. It is planned to have a list of the nominations available for noting at the Council meeting.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no specific risks arising from this report.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Political Balance
Appendix 2 - Committee Appointments