
Report title: Review of the Political Balance

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| Relevant Portfolio Holder | Councillor Joe Baker |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | |
| Relevant Head of Service | Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services |
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| Wards Affected | All |
| 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; and**
- 2) appointments by political group leaders to the places on each Committee etc. be noted.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report sets out the proposed political balance of the authority's Committees and seeks the Council's agreement to these.
- 2.2 A review of the political balance is required each time there is a change to the membership of the political groups and to the allocation of seats to the political groups. In this instance, whilst no changes have been made to the membership of any of the political groups since the last Council meeting, proposals to make the Appeals Committee and Statutory Officers' Disciplinary Panel Sub-Committees of the Joint Appeals Committee, will result in changes to the Committees that make up the political balance. Therefore, a review of the political balance is required.

- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The attached list of Committee appointments relates to Committees that form part of the political balance only. Informal Committees and other committees where there is no requirement for the membership to reflect the political balance are not addressed in this report.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 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.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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; and
- the Group with the majority of seats on the Council should hold the majority of seats on each Committee.

- 5.2 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 20 Labour group members, 5 Conservative group members and 2 non-aligned members.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purposes

- 6.1 The proposals detailed in this report support the aim to be 'An Effective and Sustainable Council'.

Climate Change Implications

6.2 There are no climate change implications.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.3 There are no equalities and diversity implications.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There are no specific risks arising from this report.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Political Balance

Appendix 2 - Committee Appointments