

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 20 May 2026

Report of: Strategic Director for Corporate Resources

Title: Appointment of Members to the Council's Committees

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 To confirm the political proportionality, distribution and appointments to Council committees.
- 1.2 To receive and confirm the nominations from political group leaders to committees and outside bodies for the 2026/27 municipal year.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 That Council approves the allocation of proportional committee seats as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- 2.2 That Council approves committee memberships in accordance with the nominations submitted by the political group leaders at Appendix B.
- 2.3 That Council approves the appointments to Outside Bodies submitted by the political group leaders at Appendix C
- 2.4 That Council delegate authority to the Democratic Services Manager to amend the constitution to reflect Portfolio Holder appointments and any amendments to these appointments made during the municipal year.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

- 3.1 At its Annual Meeting, Council is required to confirm its political proportionality and allocate places to the committees of the Council.
- 3.2 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the 1989 Act) sets out the duty to allocate seats to political groups. This requires Committees to reflect the political balance of the Council. Where there are changes within the municipal year the legislation states that changes should be made "as soon as practicable". In general, this would be at the next scheduled meeting of Council.
- 3.3 Section 15(5) of the Act sets out the following four principles to be applied in order to determine the allocation of seats on each Council Committee:
 - a. Not all the seats on the body shall be allocated to the same political Group;
- 3.4 b. The majority of the seats on the body shall be allocated to a particular Political Group if the number of persons belonging to that group is the majority of the Authority's membership;
 - c. Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above the number of seats on the ordinary Committees of the Council which are allocated to each Political Group shall bear

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the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of the Council as is borne by the number of Members of that Group to the membership of the Council;

d. Subject to paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above, the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each Political Group shall bear the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the Authority.

3.5 These four principles are set in order of precedence, with (a) having first precedence and each subsequent principle being met in so far as it does not counteract the preceding principle.

3.6 Under the Act, whilst the Council determines the number of seats on each Committee, the responsibility for nominating Members rests with the political groups concerned. Council is obliged to accept the nominations put forward by the political group leaders, provided that the four principles governing the allocation of seats are followed as much as possible in the order shown.

- Due to its size, the Labour Group have been allocated 25 seats on committees.
- Due to its size, the Green Group have been allocated 14 seats on committees.
- Due to its size, the Liberal Democrat Group have been allocated 7 seats on committees.
- Due to its size, the Reform UK Group have been allocated 4 seats on committees.
- Due to its size, the Equity Independent Group have been allocated 3 seats on committees.
- The Conservative Member has been allocated 1 seat based on the remaining availability of seats.

3.7 To ensure compliance with (c), that the overall distribution is equitable, it can be necessary for political groups and Independent councillors to be overrepresented on some committees and under-represented on others. For the larger political groups this could involve giving up seats and part seat entitlements so that whole seats can be assigned to the smaller political groups which would otherwise not have adequate representation.

3.8 The Act does not apply to membership of the Executive. In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Leader makes appointments to the Executive.

3.9 Members will note that in accordance with Section 21(9) of the Local Government Act 2000, members of the Executive cannot include members of the Council's Scrutiny Committees. In accordance with Article 9 Executive members are excluded from sitting on the Audit and Governance Committee.

3.10 The proportionality rules apply, broadly speaking, to all committees or sub committees of the Council. For the purpose of proportionality, the Council's two scrutiny committees and all regulatory committees.

3.11 Proportionality rules set out in the Act can only be disapplied by resolution of the Council with no Member voting against.

3.12 The table at Appendix A sets out the proportionality calculation. It is based on the size of the Council's political groups.

3.13 The political group leaders have been invited to make their nominations to Committees according to the above allocation.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources:

4.1 There are no resource implications resulting from the recommendations.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 There are no financial implications for Council to consider.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 Legal considerations are set out above.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 The content of this report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

8.1 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because it seeks only to make nominations to Council committees.

9. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

9.1 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

10. Report details:

10.1 Contained in Section 3 above.

11. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

11.1 Ensuring appointments to committees will contribute to a Well-Run Council.

12. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

12.1 No risks have been identified.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 None

Strategic Director of Corporate Resources

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Local Government Act 2000

List of Appendices:

- Appendix A – Proportionality Calculation
- Appendix B – Committee Allocations – TO FOLLOW
- Appendix C – Outside Bodies – TO FOLLOW

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