

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

Date: **15 June 2023**

Report of: **Head of Democratic Services**

Subject: **APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS**

SUMMARY

On the 5 June 2023 the Chief Executive Officer received notice that in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 the three independent Councillors wished to form a political group to be known as the Group of Independent Councillors.

This report provides details of the calculations for political balance relating to the allocation of seats on committees following the formation of the Group of Independent Councillors.

The report also asks the Council to appoint the nominations of the political groups to committees and also to confirm the role of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council approves:

- (a) the allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix A to this report, for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24; and
- (b) the nominations of the political groups to seats on committees, along with the nominations of deputies and the appointment of a Chairman and Vice Chairman for each committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24, as set out in Appendix B to this report.

INTRODUCTION

1. Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 imposes a duty on the local authority to review the allocation of seats on the committees of the authority as soon as is practicable after any division of, or change to, political groups occur.
2. The Council is invited to review the allocation of seats to its committees along with the nomination of deputies and the appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24. Such appointments will take effect from 16 June 2023.

ALLOCATION OF SEATS

3. Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides the following principles which apply to the allocation of seats:
 - (a) that not all the seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the majority of seats on each Committee are allocated to a particular group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - (c) that, subject to (a) and (b), when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council, must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership; and
 - (d) subject to (a) to (c), that the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.
4. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that, once the Council has determined the allocation of Committee places between the political groups, the Council must then appoint the nominees of the political groups to the Committees.

POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

5. The political balance of the Council for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24 is attached as Appendix A to this report.
6. The allocation of seats between the political groups for each committee shall be in accordance with the figures at Appendix A to this report.

ADJUSTMENTS FOLLOWING CALCULATIONS

7. Each of the political groups is entitled to a certain number of seats on committees. This is based upon their percentage representation on the Council as a whole, as detailed in Appendix A.
8. There are a total of 85 seats to be allocated and the strict entitlement to seats on committees for each political group is shown as detailed in Appendix A.

9. Each of the political groups is only entitled to their proportion of seats and once this entitlement has been reached, a manual adjustment may be necessary.
10. Appendix A shows a rounded allocation of seats to each political group. This is then required to be manually adjusted to ensure that the number of seats allocated to a particular political group match, and does not exceed, the strict entitlement.
11. The manual adjustments required are confirmed in the notes as detailed in Appendix A.
12. Group Leaders have been requested to provide nominations to the places on committees to which their respective groups are entitled. The nominations of political groups to seats on committees are set out in Appendix B to the report.
13. The Council is also required to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each Committee and these nominations are included at Appendix B (indicated by the letters Ch and VC), along with the nomination of deputies

OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN

14. The minority group Leaders may nominate a spokesman for each Executive portfolio area. The nominations of spokesmen to seats on committees is set out in Appendix B and are marked as Xs.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Allocation of Seats to Committees

Appendix B – Committee Nomination Schedule

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers:

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Notice of Membership of a Political Group received 5 June 2023

Enquiries: For further information on this report please contact Leigh Usher. (Ext 4553)