

## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Council**  
2024

10th April

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### **Political Balance Report**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Charlie Hotham
Portfolio Holder Consulted	
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
Report Author Claire Felton	Job Title: Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Contact email: <a href="mailto:c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a> Contact Tel: (01527) 64252
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) for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year, the Committees set out in the table in Appendix 1 of the report be appointed and that the representation of the different political groups on the Council on those Committees be as set out in that table until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or until the next review of political representation under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, whichever is the earlier.**
- 2) Members be appointed to the Committees and as substitute members in accordance with nominations to be made by Group Leaders.**

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The political balance is reported for Members' consideration at Annual Council meetings.
- 2.2 Further reports in respect of the political balance may be presented for Council's consideration during the municipal year should there be a change to the political composition of the authority.

2.3 This report has been prepared following changes to the political balance of the Council in February 2024.

**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

3.1 The rules of political proportionality mean that the political balance of the Council needs to be reflected in the political composition of individual Boards and Committees. In addition, the total number of seats allocated to each group must reflect the political balance of the Council.

3.2 The proposed allocation of seats on each Board/Committee is done on a strict mathematical basis.

3.3 The political balance calculations have been reviewed following a change to the membership of one of the political groups at the Council.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no specific financial implications.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Sections 15 -17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 place a duty on Councils to allocate the seats on certain committees in proportion to the size of the political groups on the Council.

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 11 Conservative group members, 8 Labour Group members, 6 2023 Independent group members, 5 Liberal Democrat group members and 1 non-aligned member.

5.3 A review of the political balance must take place as soon as is reasonably possible after a change occurs to the Council's political balance.

**6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

6.1 This review of the Council's political balance is required following changes to political group membership at the authority. The review will help to ensure that the Council remains effective and sustainable.

**Climate Change Implications**

6.2 There are no specific climate change implications.

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

6.3 There are no specific equalities and diversity implications.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 Given there is a legal duty on Councils to allocate the seats on certain Committees in proportion to the size of the political groups on the Council, Members do need to agree the political balance.

7.2 There is a risk that if a political balance is not agreed for the Council this could cause reputational damage.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 – Political Balance

**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Lead Portfolio Holder	Councillor Charlie Hotham, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling	
Lead Director / Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	March 2024
Financial Services	Pete Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer	March 2024
Legal Services	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	March 2024