

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council
2024

4th December

Political Balance Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Karen May
Portfolio Holder Consulted	
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
Report Author Claire Felton	Job Title: Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services Contact c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk email: Contact Tel: (01527) 64252
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Council Priority	Sustainability
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 2024/25 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 due to changes arising to the political balance of the Council since the previous full Council meeting.

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 by-election at the Council. The membership of the Council now comprises 11 Conservative members, 7 Liberal Democrat members, 6 Labour members, 5 Independents 2024 members and 2 non-aligned members.

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 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 Council Priority

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

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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

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Lead Portfolio Holder	Councillor Karen May, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Partnerships and Enabling	
Lead Director / Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	
Financial Services	Pete Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer	
Legal Services	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	