

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council
2025

3rd December

Urgent Business: Political Balance and Committee Allocations Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Karen May	
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes	
Relevant Head of Service		Claire Felton, Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services	
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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 2025/26 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 last 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 changes to the political groups at the Council. The membership of the Council now comprises 11 Conservative members, 7 Liberal Democrat members, 6 Labour members, 6 Independents 2025 members and 1 non-aligned member.

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.
- 5.3 A review of the political balance must take place as soon as is practicable after a change occurs to the Council's political balance. In this instance, the requirement to review the figures arose following a change to the political balance which occurred after the publication of the agenda for this meeting of Council. For this reason, changes to the political balance will be considered as urgent business at this meeting.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation Implications

- 6.1 There are no implications for Local Government Reorganisation.

Relevant Council Priority

- 6.2 A review of the Council's political balance is required following changes to political groups at the Council. The review will help to ensure that the Council remains sustainable.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.3 There are no specific climate change implications.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.4 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 December 2025 (to follow)