

Report of General Counsel, Clerk & Monitoring Officer Changes to Allocation of Committee Seats

Purpose of report

1. To seek ratification of a change to the allocation of Committee seats as a result of Cllr Kenyon and Cllr Bastow swapping committees; and
 2. To increase the Membership of the Appointments Committee
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Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- (i) the revised allocation of committee seats set out in Table 2 of Appendix 1 (whereby Cllr Kenyon has replaced Cllr Bastow on Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee) be approved; and***
- (ii) Appointments Committee be increased to 8 Members in order to accommodate Cllr Robinson as vice-chairman***

Introduction and Background

3. At the last meeting of the Authority, Members agreed the allocation of committee seats in accordance with the principles of political balance that, so far as reasonably practicable:
 - (i) if one political group comprises a majority of the Authority's total membership, the majority of seats on each committee must be allocated to that group. As there is no group with an overall majority this is not currently applicable;
 - (ii) the total number of seats allocated to each political group across all committees bears the same proportion as the number of Members of the group to the membership of the Authority overall; and
 - (iii) subject to (i) and (ii) above, the proportion of the seats allocated to each political group on each individual committee, bears the same proportion as the number of Members of that group to the membership of the Authority overall.
4. The resultant allocation was as shown in Appendix 1, table 1. This included Cllr Kenyon being allocated a seat on Audit, Scrutiny & Standards Committee.

- It has since been agreed with the leader of the Reform Group that Cllr Bastow will swap with Cllr Kenyon, thereby enabling Cllr Kenyon to have his preference of a seat on Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee. This involves a change to the previously agreed allocation of seats and therefore requires the approval of the Authority. Following consultation with the Chairman and Group Leaders, the change was permitted to go ahead in the meantime.

Appointments Committee

- Also at the last Authority meeting, Cllr Robson as vice-chairman of the Authority was appointed vice-chairman of the Appointments Committee as is normal. However, in order to accommodate this it is necessary to increase the size of that committee to eight (previously seven). This can be achieved within the rules on political balance.

Conclusion

- The proposed changes results in a revised political balance allocation as shown in Table 2. This is only a very minor change and still within the spirit of the rules on political balance.
- A revised table of Committee appointments is attached at Appendix 2.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	None
Strategic Policy Links & Core Code of Ethics (Identify how proposals link with current priorities & policy framework and align to the Core Code of Ethics)	This links to the arrangements for discharge of the Authority's business and the appointment of committees, as set out in the Authority's constitution.
Productivity & Efficiency (Identify how proposal improves productivity or efficiency).	n/a
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	n/a
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Chairman & Group Leaders have been consulted

Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	n/a
Data Protection Impact Assessment (where personal data is processed a DPIA must be completed to ensure compliant handling)	n/a

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Allocation of Committee Seats according to political balance

Appendix 2 - Revised Committee Appointments

Background papers –

FRA report 25/6/25.

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990

Political balance & Allocation of Committee Seats

Table 1 – as approved 25/6/25

Group		Conservative Group	Reform UK Group	Green & Independent Alliance	Lib Dem Group	Non-aligned Members	Total
		6 24%	9 36%	5 20%	3 12%	2	25
Committee	Seats						
Appointments	7	2	3	1	1	-	7
Audit, Scrutiny & Standards	12	3	4	2	1	2	12
Policy & Resources Scrutiny	13	3	5	3	2		13
TOTAL SEATS	32	8 25%	12 38%	6 19%	4 13%	2	32
	%						

Table 2 – Proposed

Group		Conservative Group	Reform UK Group	Green & Independent Alliance	Lib Dem Group	Non-aligned Members	Total
		6 24%	9 36%	5 20%	3 12%	2	25
Committee	Seats						
Appointments	8	2	3	2	1	-	8
Audit, Scrutiny & Standards	12	3	5	2	1	1	12
Policy and Resources Scrutiny	13	3	4	3	2	1	13
TOTAL SEATS	33	8 24%	12 36%	7 21%	4 12%	2	33
	%						

Appendix 2

<u>Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee</u>				
Conservative Group (3)	Reform UK (5)	Ind. & Green Alliance (3)	Liberal Democrat (2)	Non-aligned Members
Cllr. R. Phillips	Cllr. A. Monk	Cllr. D. Toynbee (vice-Chair)	Cllr. D. Boatright-Greene (Chair)	Cllr. J. Kenyon
Cllr. A. Miller	Cllr. J. Shaw	Cllr. H. Robson	Cllr. J. Carwardine	
Cllr. D. Morehead	Cllr. M. Jones	Cllr. D. Boulter		
	Cllr. B. Hopkins			
<u>Audit, Scrutiny & Standards Committee</u> (cannot include Chair/Vice-Chair of Authority, Chair of Policy & Resources or Group Leaders)				
Conservative Group (3)	Reform UK (4)	Ind. & Green Alliance (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)	Non-aligned Members (2)
Cllr. E. Kearsley (Chair)	Cllr. A. Amos	Cllr. A. Bailes	Cllr. C. McSweeney (Vice- Chair)	Cllr. R. Udall
Cllr. R. Morris	Cllr. S. Bastow	Cllr. T. Wells		
Cllr. D. Davies	Cllr. O. Cleary			
	Cllr. D. Aubrey			
	Cllr. M. Dunkley			
<u>Appointments Committee</u>				
Conservative Group (2)	Reform UK (3)	Ind. & Green Alliance (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)	
Cllr. R. Phillips (Chair)	Cllr. A. Monk	Cllr. D. Boulter	Cllr. D. Boatright-Greene	
Cllr. A. Miller	Cllr. B. Hopkins	Cllr. H. Robson (Vice-Chair)		
	Cllr. A. Amos			