

TITLE Political Balance of the Council and Allocation and Appointment to Seats on Committees and Boards

FOR CONSIDERATION BY Council on 24 May 2018

WARD None Specific;

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Manjeet Gill

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That the Council decides on the composition of its Committees and makes appointments to them as specified in Rule 4.1.3e) of its Constitution. This will ensure that members of the public are provided with information on which Members are appointed to the Council's various Committees etc.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1) having reviewed the representation of the political groups on the Council, confirms that it has 42 Conservative Group Members, 8 Liberal Democrat Group Members, 3 Labour Group Members and 1 Independent Member (as set out in Para 1.1);
- 2) approves the appointment and composition of Committees and Boards as set out in Para 2.1;
- 3) approves the allocation of seats on Committees and Boards on the basis that, of the 86 seats (as set out in Para 3.6), 68 be allocated to the Conservative Group 13 be allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group and 5 be allocated to the Labour Group;
- 4) approves the proposals submitted by the respective Group Leaders and that those Members be appointed to the Committees and Boards as set out in Appendix 1;
- 5) agrees that the principles of proportionality be applied when Members are appointed to Sub Committees, Panels or Working Groups;
- 6) notes the appointment of the Independent Persons to assist the work of the Standards Committee and the co-opted Parish/Town Council Representatives as set out in Appendix 1;
- 7) notes the elected Member representatives on the Health and Wellbeing Board, as set out in Appendix 1, as nominated by the Leader of Council in accordance with Section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 contains provisions relating to political balance on Committees and Sub Committees and seats therefore have to be allocated to them in proportion to the representation of political groups on the Council and the wishes of the political groups.

In accordance with Rule 4.1.3e) of the Constitution the Council is required to decide on the composition of Committees and make appointments to them.

Members are therefore asked to note the political balance of the Council and consider the allocation of and appointment to seats on Committees and Boards for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

Background

1. Political Groups

1.1 In accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the under-mentioned Councillors have given notice to the Chief Executive of their wish to be regarded as members of the political groups as set out below:

Conservative Political Group	Liberal Democrat Political Group
Alistair Auty	Prue Bray
Keith Baker	Lindsay Ferris
Parry Batth	David Hare
Laura Blumenthal	Clive Jones
Chris Bowring	Ian Pittock
Jenny Cheng	Helen Power
David Chopping	Imogen Shepherd-DuBey
UllaKarin Clark	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey 8/54
Richard Dolinski	
Guy Grandison	
Kate Haines	
Mike Haines	
Charlotte Haitham Taylor	
John Halsall	
Pauline Helliard-Symons	Labour Political Group
Emma Hobbs	Rachel Burgess
Tim Holton	Andy Croy
Philip Houldsworth	Carl Doran 3/54
Graham Howe	
John Jarvis	
Norman Jorgensen	
Pauline Jorgensen	
John Kaiser	
Dianne King	
Abdul Loyes	
Charles Margetts	
Julian McGhee-Sumner	
Ken Miall	Independent Member
Philip Mirfin	Gary Cowan
Stuart Munro	
Barrie Patman	
Anthony Pollock	
Angus Ross	
Malcolm Richards	
Daniel Sargeant	
David Sleight	
Chris Smith	
Wayne Smith	
Bill Soane	
Simon Weeks	
Oliver Whittle	
Shahid Younis	42/54

2. Appointment and Composition of Committees

2.1 In accordance with Rule 4.1.3e) of the Constitution the Council is required to decide on the composition of Committees and make appointments to them. It is therefore proposed that Council appoint the following Committees and Boards and agree their composition:

Committees/Boards	Number of Seats
Audit Committee	6
Licensing and Appeals Committee	14
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	12
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8
Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10
Personnel Board	7
Planning Committee	9
Special Council Executive Committee	6
Standards Committee	6
Total number of seats where Political Balance applies	86
Health and Wellbeing Board	4

2.2 The total number of seats on Committees and Boards is therefore 86 given that the Health and Wellbeing Board falls outside the provisions of Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Please note that elected Member representatives on the Board are nominated by the Leader of Council in accordance with Section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

3. Allocation of Seats

3.1 As set out in Para 1.1 the political balance of the Council currently stands as follows:

	Number of Members	Political Composition %
Conservative Group	42	78%
Liberal Democrat Group	8	15%
Labour Group	3	5%
Independent Member	1	2%
	54	100%

3.2 In allocating seats on Committees, the Council must give effect, so far as reasonably practical, to the principles contained in Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which is summarised below:

- a) Not all seats on any Committee are to be allocated to the same political group;
- b) The majority of seats on any Committee must be allocated to the majority Group;
- c) Subject to a) and b) above, the number of seats on ordinary Committees must be allocated to each political Group in the same proportion as their representation on the Council;

d) Subject to a) and c) above, the number of seats on any Committee must be the same proportion as the political Groups representation on full Council.

3.3 Only Groups that consist of two or more Members are entitled to be included in the calculation of seats therefore the Independent Member cannot be included in this calculation.

3.4 As a consequence of paragraph 3.3 and in accordance with 3.2d) above the number of seats on ordinary Committees will be allocated in the same proportion as the political Groups' representation on full Council which is:

	Number of Members	Political Composition %
Conservative Group	42	79%
Liberal Democrat Group	8	15%
Labour Group	3	6%

3.5 Therefore In accordance with Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and taking account of the fact that not all seats on any Committee can be allocated to the same political group, it is intended that the 86 seats set out in Para 2.1 be allocated to each Group as follows:

Conservative Group	86 x 79%	= 68
Liberal Democrat Group	86 x 15%	= 13
Labour Group	86 x 6%	= 5
Total		86

3.6 The seats on Committees and Boards will therefore be allocated as follows:

Committee/Panels/ Board	No of Seats	Conservative Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Labour Group
Audit Committee	6	5	1	0
Licensing and Appeals Committee	14	11	2	1
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	12	9	2	1
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8	7/6**	1	0/1**
Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8	7/6**	1	0/1**
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10	7	2	1
Personnel Board	7	6	1	0
Planning Committee	9	7	1	1
Special Council Executive Committee	6	5	1	0
Standards Committee	6	5	1	0
Total	86	68	13	5

** The Labour Group is entitled to one seat on either the Children’s Services or Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

4. Appointment to Committees

4.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is a list of Committees and Boards to which Members will be appointed for the 2018/19 Municipal Year. Further information relating to nominations by the respective Group Leaders will be circulated before or at the meeting.

4.2 The principles of proportionality should also be applied when Members are appointed to Sub Committees, Panels or Working Groups.

Analysis of Issues

There are no other issues associated with this decision.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	Revenue

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
There are no other financial implications associated with this report

Cross-Council Implications
None

List of Background Papers
The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 The Council’s Constitution

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