

17 MAY 2023

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COMMITTEES AND POLITICAL GROUPS) REGULATIONS 1990 – ALLOCATION OF SEATS**

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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	<b>No</b>
Council Plan reference	<b>Not in Council Plan</b>
Wards affected	<b>All wards</b>

### Executive summary

The Council is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 to review the basis of allocation of seats amongst the Political Groups either at its Annual Meeting, or as soon as practicable thereafter, or following a by-election.

Following the Elections on 4 May 2023 the Conservative Group holds 29.82% of the seats on the Council, the Labour Group 43.86% of the seats and the Liberal Democrat Group 26.3% of the seats. For 2023/24 there are 126 seats available on politically balanced committees overall and these are allocated as follows:

- 38 (30.16%) to the Conservative Group;
- 55 (43.65%) to the Labour Group; and
- 33 (26.19%) to the Liberal Democrat Group.

Item 9 sets out separate recommendations on which committees these seats are allocated.

#### 1. Decision/s to be made

1.1 That the report on the Allocation of Seats for 2023/24 be received and noted.

#### 2. Why is the decision needed?

2.1 The Council is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 to review the basis of allocation of seats amongst the Political Groups either at its Annual Meeting, or as soon as practicable thereafter, or following a by-election.

## 2. Implications of the decision

Financial		Human rights, equalities, diversity	
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	
Communication		Procurement	
Energy Efficiency		Workforce	

### (a) Legal implications

In making its review, the Council is required, so far as reasonably practicable, to comply with the following principles:

- i) Not all seats on each Committee are to be allocated to the same Group.
- ii) The majority of seats is to be allocated to a particular Group if the number of persons belonging to that Group is a majority on the Council.
- iii) Subject to the above paragraphs, the number of seats on the Committees allocated to each Group should bear the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the Committees as that borne by the number of Members of that Group to the Membership of the Council.
- iv) Subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to different political groups bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.

### (b) Other implications

None

## 3. Alternatives

- 4.1 The Council could choose to allocate seats outside of statutory framework, but this would require a unanimous Council resolution to do so and is not advised.

## 4. Timetable for implementation

- 5.1 Not Applicable

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### List of annexes

None

### List of background papers:

None