

COUNCIL



Report subject	Review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group and the appointment of Councillors to Committees
Meeting date	21 May 2019
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Wards	All Wards
Status	Public Report
Classification	For Decision
Executive summary	The Council is asked to consider and approve the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • political balance and the proposed allocation of seats on Committees to each political group. • nominations for Councillors to serve on the Committees within the Council’s decision making structure. • nominations for Councillors to serve on the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority and the Dorset Police and Crime Panel.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. approves the political balance as set out in the report. b. approves the allocation of seats to Political Groups on Committees as set out in the report. c. authorises Group Leaders to submit their nominations to fill the seats on Committees to the Monitoring Officer within the next 48 hours. d. appoints the non-aligned Councillors (Others) to the Committees as detailed in the report following the submission of nominations.

	e. approves the allocation of seats to Political Groups on the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority and the Dorset Police and Crime Panel and Group Leaders be authorised to submit their nominations to fill the seats on these bodies to the Monitoring Officer within the next 48 hours.
Reason for recommendations	To ensure compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations in approving the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats together with any other associated issues.

Background

1. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations set out the methodology and key principles to be applied when an authority appoints Councillors to committees. In summary this ensures that committees reflect the political balance of the authority. The authority must approve its political balance before appointing to committees. The political balance calculation is based upon membership of political groups as defined by the Regulations. The percentage is calculated on the basis of total group membership as a percentage of the total number of seats in the authority.

	No. of Seats	% of total of Seats	90 seats on Committees/Boards
Conservatives	36	47.37	42.63
Liberal Democrats	15	19.74	17.76
Christchurch Independents	8	10.53	9.47
Poole People & All Group	8	10.53	9.47
The Bournemouth Group	4	5.26	4.73
Labour	3	3.95	3.55
Others	2	2.63	2.37

Note – The 2 Councillors referenced as Others are not aligned to any political groups on the Council.

2. Set out below is the proposed allocation of seats to the political groups. The following principles are contained within Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and applied in order:
 - a. Not all the seats on a committee are allocated to the same political group.
 - b. Where a group has a majority of seats on the Authority it should have the majority of seats on each committee.
 - c. The third rule provides that, without being inconsistent with the first two rules, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all the Committees taken together be as near as possible proportionate to their proportion of seats as a proportion of the authority as a whole.

- d. Finally, so far as is consistent with the above each group should be allocated seats on each committee to reflect their proportion of seats on the authority.

	Conservatives	Liberal Democrats	Christchurch Independents	Poole People & All Group	The Bournemouth Group	Labour	Others
Planning Committee (15)	7	3	2	1	1	0	1
Licensing Committee (15)	7	3	1	2	0	1	1
Standards Committee (7)	3	1	1	1	1	0	0
Appeals Committee (7)	3	1	1	1	0	1	0
Audit and Governance Committee (9)	4	2	1	1	0	0	1
Overview and Scrutiny Board (15)	8	3	1	1	1	1	0
Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee (11)	5	2	1	1	1	1	0
Children's Services O&S Committee (11)	5	2	1	1	1	1	0
Total	42	17	9	9	5	5	3

Nominations for Committees

- The Council will be asked to appoint Councillors to serve on the Committees based on the political balance of the Council. The Group Leaders will propose the nominations for the seats allocated to each Group in accordance with the political balance arrangements set out above. If a Political Group does not wish to nominate individuals at the meeting, then the Council will need to consider agreeing that the Group(s) provide the names of the Councillors to the Monitoring Officer within a defined time period. The remainder of seats will be considered pursuant to nominations proposed at the meeting.

Nominations for the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority and the Dorset Police and Crime Panel

- In respect of the Dorset Police and Crime Panel in order to ensure compliance with the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 following Local Government Reorganisation the Council's representation on the Panel is 5 Councillors. The Dorset Council also has 5 Councillors. Nominations made to the Panel from each of the respective councils must also meet the appropriate political balance.
- The Council's representation on the Fire Authority is 5 Councillors.
- Set out below is the allocation of seats on the above bodies based on the political balance of the Council.

	Conservatives	Liberal Democrats	Christchurch Independents	Poole People & All Group	The Bournemouth Group	Labour	Others
Dorset Police and Crime Panel	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority	2	1	1	1	0	0	0

Summary of financial implications

7. There are no financial implications associated with the report.

Summary of legal implications

8. The Council is required to comply with the relevant legislation and regulations when considering and approving the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats.

Summary of human resources implications

9. There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

Summary of environmental impact

10. There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

Summary of public health implications

11. There are no public health implications associated with this report.

Summary of equality implications

12. There are no equality implications associated with this report.

Summary of risk assessment

13. There are no risk implications associated with this report.

Background papers

None

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.