

# Supplementary Papers for Council

Date: Tuesday, 7 May 2024



## 5. 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 and Outside Bodies

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This supplement provides details of the political balance calculations following the by-election on 2 May 2024, the allocation of seats to each political group and the nominations to serve on each committee or relevant body.

**It is RECOMMENDED that: -**

- (a) the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Appendix A, Table 1 be approved;**
- (b) the allocation of seats to each political group as set out in Appendix A, Table 2 be approved;**
- (c) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards, taking into account the membership, as detailed in Appendix A, Table 3, and any nominations submitted by political groups, be approved;**
- (d) the allocation of seats to each political group to the outside bodies as detailed in Appendix A, Table 4, be approved and the Group Leaders advise the proper officer of their representatives (*these are shown in Table 5*);**
- (e) subject to (d) above the Council is requested to approve the appointment of unaligned members to the relevant outside bodies.**

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# Agenda Item 5

## Appendix A

- The following should be read in conjunction with the report circulated with the Council agenda on 7 May 2024.

**Table 1 – Political Balance**

	No of Seats	% of total seats	Seat entitlement*
Liberal Democrat	28	36.84	41.26
Conservative	12	15.79	17.68
Labour	10	13.16	14.74
Christchurch Independents	8	10.53	11.79
Poole People	5	6.58	7.37
Green	6	7.89	8.84
Independents	3	3.95	4.42
Poole Engage	2	2.63	2.95
Non-aligned	2	2.63	2.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>112.00</b>

- The above calculations are based on 112 seats.

**Table 2 – Allocation of seats on Committee/Boards**

	Western BCP Planning Committee	Eastern BCP Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Board	Environment & Place O&S Committee	Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee	Children's Services O&S Committee	Investigation and Disciplinary Committee	Total	Variance (+/-)
Liberal Democrat	4	4	5	3	2	4	5	3	4	4	3	41	+0
Conservative	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	18	+0
Labour	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	15	+0
Christchurch Independents	-(a)	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	12	+0
Poole People	2	-(a)	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	7	+0
Green	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	9	+0
Independents	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	4	+0
Poole Engage	-	-	-	-	1 <sup>(b)</sup>	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	+0
Non-aligned	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	+0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>112</b>	

3. The Council is asked to consider the proposed allocation of seats to political groups as detailed in the table above following the annual review of the political balance of the Council and the by-election on 2 May 2024. The last column in the above table identifies there is no variance in the allocation of seats compared to calculations set out in Table 1. However, it should be noted that the Christchurch Independents and Poole People political groups have expressed a desire to allocate seats other than by political balance on the Western and Eastern BCP Planning Committees as shown in the table<sup>(a)</sup>, which will require no dissent by Council.
4. Seats on committees, which are allocated to political groups, are to be filled by councillors of the respective political group in accordance with the wishes of the relevant group.
5. The Monitoring Officer has been notified by the Leader of the Poole Engage Political Group, which consists of two members, that whilst recognising the important work of the Appeals Committee neither member of the group is able to attend the scheduled meetings and has given notice that they are unable to appoint to the seat in question<sup>(b)</sup>.
6. The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 makes provision, where a political group is unable to appoint a member of that group to an allocated seat, for the council to 'make such appointment as they think fit'. In such circumstances, the seat may be allocated to a named councillor without regard to the political balance requirements. This same position was taken in November 2023 and Councillor Chris Rigby was appointed to this seat. It is proposed that Councillor Rigby is allocated the seat on the Appeals Committee.
7. The following table (Table 3) therefore sets out the proposed membership of the Committees and Boards as advised by the respective political groups. Where a political group has not advised of their proposed members to serve on each committee or board, this will be shown as a vacancy.
8. The Political Groups may at any time alter their Group's membership of Committees and Boards, but any seats allocated to the unaligned Members must be approved by full Council. Members are asked to consider the following and any revised nominations submitted by the political groups.

**Table 3 – Appointments to Committees/Boards**

	Western BCP Planning Committee	Eastern BCP Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Board	Environment & Place O&S Committee	Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee	Children's Services O&S Committee	Investigation and Disciplinary Committee
Liberal Democrat	Le Poidevin Chapmanlaw Sidaway Clements	Le Poidevin Clements Tarling Gillett	Chapmanlaw Harman Moore Matthews Richardson	Chapmanlaw Nanovo Maidment	Brown, O Le Poidevin	Andrews Herrett Tarling Weight	Andrews Goodall Moore Trent Walters	Clements Chick Moore	Gillett Matthews Richardson Slade, P	Brown, O Harman Mackrow Walters	Slade, V * Earl ** Maidment
Conservative	Adams Challinor	Adams Williams	Filer Williams	Rampton	Rampton	Beesley	Beesley Broadhead	d'Orton-Gibson Wright	Allen Farr	Broadhead Dove	Broadhead
Labour	Cooper Dower	Martin, G	Dower Farquhar	Connolly	Dower	Connolly	Aitkenhead	Martin, J	Canavan Moriarty	Cooper Carr-Brown	Martin, J
Christchurch Independents	-	Flagg Hilliard McCormack	Flagg Hilliard	Ricketts	Phipps	Phipps	Dedman	Ricketts	Dedman	Martin, D	-
Poole People	Hitchcock Rice	-	Howell	-	Miles	-	Rice	Rice	-	Hitchcock	-
Green	Salmon, K	Salmon, J	Keddie	Armstrong	Rigby***	Armstrong	Salmon, K	Rigby	Salmon, J	Bull	-
Independents	-	-	Castle	-	-	Castle	Northover	Northover	-	-	Northover
Poole Engage	-	-	-	-	***	-	-	Bagwell	-	-	Butt
Non-aligned	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bartlett	-	Edwards	-	Bartlett

\* Leader of the Council in accordance with the Constitution

\*\* Portfolio Holder in accordance with the Constitution

\*\*\* The seat allocated to the Poole Engage Group is recommended to filled by Councillor Rigby. See paragraphs 5 and 6 for further details.

9. Outside Bodies – the following table sets out the outside bodies which are subject to the political balance requirements. The last column identifies the variances compared to the calculations set out in Table 1

**Table 4 – Allocation of Seats on Outside Bodies**

	Entitlement based on 18 Seats	Dorset Police and Crime Panel	Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority	Dorset Pension Fund Committee	Lower Central Gardens Trust Board	Total	Variance (+/-)
Liberal Democrat	7	2	2	1	2	7	+ 0
Conservative	3	0	1	1	1	3	+ 0
Labour	2	1	0	0	1	2	+ 0
Christchurch Independents	2	1	1	0	0	2	+ 0
Poole People	2	0	0	1	1	2	+ 0
Green	1	1	0	0	0	1	+ 0
Independents	1	0	1	0	0	1	+ 0
Poole Engage	0	0	0	0	0	0	+ 0
Non-aligned	0	0	0	0	0	0	+ 0
Total	18	5	5	3	5	18	

**Table 5 – Appointments to Outside Bodies**

	Dorset Police and Crime Panel	Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority	Dorset Pension Fund Committee	Lower Central Gardens Trust Board
Liberal Democrat	Sidaway Trent	Herrett Weight	Brown, D	Gillett Nanovo
Conservative		Adams	Beesley	Williams
Labour	Canavan			Martin, J
Christchurch Independents	Flagg	Hilliard		
Poole People			Rice	Hadley
Green	Keddie			
Independents		Northover		
Poole Engage				
Non-aligned				

10. The Council is asked to consider the proposals set out in this Appendix. Councillors are advised that the Act and Regulations make provisions where a proposal is not as far as practicably possible politically representative. This includes instances where a Group gives up a seat which they are entitled to hold in favour of another and distorts the political balance rules. In such an instance such a proposal can only be accepted if no member votes against them.