

Supplementary Papers for Council

Date: Tuesday, 14 October 2025



12. **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 revision to the political balance calculations has been published following the resignation of two councillors from the conservative group and the establishment of a new political group named BCP Reform UK.

The Council is asked to consider and approve the review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group, the appointment of Councillors on Committees and appointments to outside bodies following the result of the by-election in the Talbot and Branksome Woods Ward on 11 September 2025 and other political group changes.

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Supplementary Update on the Calculation of Political Balance and the Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: (a) the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Table 1 to this report be noted; (b) the allocation of seats to each political group, as set out in Table 2 to this report, be approved; (c) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards, taking into account the wishes of each political group, as detailed in Table 3 to this report, be approved; (d) the allocation of seats to each political group to the outside bodies, as detailed in Table 4 to this report, be approved; (e) the appointment of Councillors to the outside bodies, taking into account the wishes of each political group, as detailed in Table 5 to this report, be approved.
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1. Following the publication of the agenda for Council, the proper officer received notice of the formation of a new political group named BCP Reform UK, comprising Councillors Farr and Adams. It has therefore been necessary to recalculate the political balance of the council and to issue this revised schedule.
2. The Council is therefore asked to consider the political balance of the Council following the changes identified in paragraph 1 as well as the previously notified changes arising from the resignation of Councillors Dower and G Martin from the Labour Group, the establishment of a new political group named BCP Independents, comprising Councillors Bartlett, Edwards, Dower, G Martin and Rampton, and the by-election for the vacancy in the Talbot and Branksome Woods Ward on 11 September at which Councillor Dawn Logan was duly elected as Councillor. The proper officer has received notice that Councillor Logan has joined the Liberal Democrat political group.
3. Set out in Table 1 below is the revised political balance of the Council reflecting these latest changes.

Table1	No of Seats	% of total seats	Seat entitlement
Liberal Democrat	29	38.16	42.74
Conservative	9	11.84	13.26
Christchurch Independents	8	10.53	11.79
Labour	8	10.53	11.79
Green	6	7.89	8.84
BCP Independents	5	6.58	7.37
Poole People	5	6.58	7.37
BCP Reform UK	2	2.63	2.95
Independents	2	2.63	2.95
Poole Engage	2	2.63	2.95
Total	76		112

4. The following principles are contained within Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and have been amended under the regulations to take account of the fact that not all the seats are necessarily held by members of political groups. They need to be applied in the following order and as far as practicably possible:
 - (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 ordinary committees taken together be as near as reasonably practicable 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.
5. The allocation of seats other than in accordance with the above principles, requires approval without dissent.
6. The Council is asked to consider the proposed allocation of seats to political groups as detailed in Table 2 below in accordance with the above principles. The last column in the table identifies there is no variance in the allocation of seats compared to calculations set out in Table 1.
7. 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.

Table 2 – Allocation of seats on Committees/Boards

Political Group	Western BCP Planning Committee	Eastern BCP Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Board	Environment and 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	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	43	+ 0
Conservative	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	16	+ 0
Christchurch Independents	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	12	+ 0
Labour	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	2	1	2	-	12	+ 0
Green	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	9	+ 0
BCP Independents	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	7	+ 0
Poole People	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	7	+ 0
BCP Reform UK	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	+ 0
Independents	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	+ 0
Poole Engage	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	+ 0
Total	11	11	14	7	7	9	13	11	11	11	7	112	

Appointment of Councillors to Committees

8. 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 at the time of publication, this will be shown as a vacancy.
9. The Political Groups may at any time alter their Group's membership of Committees and Boards, but any seats otherwise allocated including 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	Chapmanlaw Clements Le Poidevin Sidaway	Clements Gillett Le Poidevin Tarling	Chapmanlaw Harman Matthews Richardson Sidaway	Chapmanlaw Nanovo Pattinson- West	Brown, O Le Poidevin Logan	Andrews Slade, V Tarling Weight	Goodall Mackrow Trent Walters Weight	Chick Clements Gillett Goodall	Logan Matthews Richardson Slade, P	Brown, O Harman Mackrow Walters	Earl * Cox ** Pattinson- West
Conservative	Challinor	Slade, T	Filer Williams	Wright	Dove	Beesley	Beesley Wright	d'Orton- Gibson	Allen	Slade, T	Dove
Christchurch Independents	McCormack	Flagg Hilliard	Flagg Hilliard	Ricketts	Phipps	Phipps	Dedman	Ricketts	Dedman	Martin, D	-
Labour	Cooper	Canavan	Farquhar	Farquhar	-	Connolly	Aitkenhead Canavan	Martin, J Moriarty	Canavan	Cooper Carr- Brown	-
Green	Salmon, J	Salmon, J	Keddie	Armstrong	-	Armstrong	Salmon, K	Rigby	Rigby	Bull	-
BCP Independents	Martin, G	-	Bartlett	-	Rampton	Bartlett	-	Edwards	Dower	-	Bartlett
Poole People	Hitchcock	Rice	Howell	-	Miles	-	Rice	Rice	-	Hitchcock	-
BCP Reform UK	Adams	Vacancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Farr	-
Independents	-	-	-	-	-	-	Northover	-	Northover	-	Northover
Poole Engage	-	-	Vacancy	-	-	-	-	-	Bagwell	-	Butt

* Leader of the Council in accordance with the Constitution

** Portfolio Holder in accordance with the Constitution

Allocation of Outside Body Seats to Political Groups

10. The following tables (Tables 4 and 5) set out the allocation of seats and named appointments on outside bodies which are subject to the political balance requirements. The last column in the table identifies there is no variance in the allocation of seats and the proposals as outlined are compliant with the political balance principles.

Table 4 – Allocation of seats on Outside Bodies

	Entitlement based on 17 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	6	1	2	1	2	6	+ 0
Conservative	2	-	-	1	1	2	+ 0
Christchurch Independents	2	1	1	-	-	2	+ 0
Labour	2	1	-	-	1	2	+ 0
Green	1	1	-	-	-	1	+ 0
BCP Independents	2	1	1	-	-	2	+ 0
Poole People	2	-	1	1	-	2	+ 0
BCP Reform UK	0	-	-	-	-	0	+ 0
Independents	0	-	-	-	-	0	+ 0
Poole Engage	0	-	-	-	-	0	+ 0
Total	17	5	5	3	4	17	

* Membership on Lower Central Gardens Trust Board must be not less than 4 and not more than 5.

Table 5 - Appointment of Councillors 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	Brown, O Weight	Brown, D	Gillett Nanovo
Conservative	-	-	Beesley	Williams
Christchurch Independents	Flagg	Hilliard	-	-
Labour	Canavan	-	-	Martin, J
Green	Keddie	-	-	-
BCP Independents	Rampton	Dower	-	-
Poole People	-	Miles	Rice	-
BCP Reform UK	-	-	-	-
Independents	-	-	-	-
Poole Engage	-	-	-	-

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