

Report subject	Review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each Political Group, appointment of Councillors to Committees and appointments to Outside Bodies
Meeting date	9 June 2020 (Reconvening on 7 July 2020)
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Council is asked to consider and approve: (a) the review of the political balance of the Council; (b) the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group; (c) the appointment of Councillors to Committees (d) the appointments to Outside Bodies as a result of the review of the political balance.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: (a) the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Table 1 to this report, be approved; (b) the allocation of seats to each political group, as set out in Table 2 to this report, be approved, subject to any changes; (c) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards taking into account the membership, as detailed in Table 3, any nominations submitted by political groups and subject to the Council’s consideration of the approved recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee on 23 January 2020 – “<i>that there should be an expectation that all Councillors will sit on at least one Committee or Panel of the Council</i>”, be approved; (d) the appointment of Councillors to the other bodies, as detailed in paragraphs 6-8 as a result of the revised political balance of the Council, be approved.
Reason for recommendations	To ensure compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations in reviewing and approving the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats together with any other associated issues.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Vikki Slade, Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Julian Osgathorpe, Corporate Director of Resources
Report Authors	Anne Brown, Interim Monitoring Officer Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services Karen Tompkins, Deputy Head of Democratic Services
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the Act) and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (“the 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 membership of the authority.
2. The Council is required to review the political balance on an annual basis and following any change in its membership. Set out below are the revised membership calculations based on 75 seats following the death of Councillor Colin Bungey:

Table 1

	No of Seats	% of total seats	Seat entitlement
Conservatives	36	48.00	43.20
Liberal Democrats	15	20.00	18.00
Christchurch Independents	6	8.00	7.20
Poole People and ALL	6	8.00	7.20
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	4	5.33	4.80
Labour	3	4.00	3.60
Non-aligned	5	6.67	6.00
Total	75	100.00	90.00

3. 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, they have been amended under the regulations to take account of the fact that not all the seats are held by members of political groups, they need to be 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 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.

Table 2

	Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Board	Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee	Children's Services O&S Committee	Total	Variance (+/-)
Conservatives	7	8	3	3	4	8	5	5	43	0
Liberal Democrats	3	3	1	1	3	3	2	2	18	0
Christchurch Independents	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	7	0
Poole People and ALL	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	7	0
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	5	0
Labour	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4	0
Non-aligned	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	6	0
Total	15	15	7	7	9	15	11	11	90	

4. In accordance with the revised political balance of the Council Members are asked to consider the proposed allocation of seats as detailed above. The last column in the above table identifies the variances in the allocation of seats compared to calculations set out in Table 1.

5. The following table sets out the current membership of Committees and Boards, in accordance with the previous wishes of the Political Groups and decisions of Council. The Political Groups may at any time alter the 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, any revised nominations submitted by the political groups and the decision of the Council on 9th June 2020 – *“that there should be an expectation that all Councillors will sit on at least one Committee or Panel of the Council.”* To clarify for the avoidance of doubt this excludes Cabinet Members.

Table 3

	Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Board	Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee	Children's Services O&S Committee
Conservatives	Davies Dunlop Hall Kelsey Lawton O'Neill Stribley	J Butt Decent Dion Dove Dunlop Farr Kelsey Vacancy	Filer Jones Stribley	S Anderson Borthwick Hedges	Beesley Williams Dunlop White	Broadhead Haines M Anderson Fear M Greene N Greene Iyengar Mellor	Allen Edwards C Johnson Rampton Rocca	Coope Hall Kelly Phillips White
Liberal Democrats	T Johnson Le Poidevin Trent	Burton T Johnson Parrish	Andrews	Le Poidevin	Andrews Brooke Cox	Brooke Earl Trent	Matthews Robson	Burton Maidment
Christchurch Independents	McCormack Hilliard	Flagg	-	Hilliard	McCormack	-	Geary	Geary
Poole People and ALL	Baron	Baron	Baron	Miles	-	Miles	Evans	Evans
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	Bull	-	Rigby	-	-	Rigby	Northover	Northover
Labour	-	Farquhar	-	Farquhar	-	Farquhar	-	Lewis
Non-aligned	Bartlett	Butler	Brooks	-	Bartlett	Bartlett	Butler	-

Other Bodies

6. The Council is asked to consider any changes in the Council's representatives on the following bodies and to fill the vacancy on the Dorset Police and Crime Panel following the death of Councillor Colin Bungey.
7. To illustrate the allocations of seats on the outside bodies to each Political Group, the table below includes the Council's representation on the Dorset Police and Crime Panel, Dorset and Wiltshire Joint Fire and Rescue Authority, the Dorset Pension Fund Committee and the Stour Valley and Poole Partnership Joint Committee to which political balance applies.
8. Set out below is the allocation of seats based on the revised political balance of the Council and the Councillors currently serving on these bodies.

	Dorset Police & Crime Panel (5)	Dorset & Wiltshire Joint Fire & Rescue Authority (5)	Dorset Pension Fund Joint Committee (3)	Stour Valley & Poole Partnership Joint Committee (4)
Conservatives	2.00 Dove Iyengar	2.00 Davies Stribley	1.44 Beesley	1.92 Haines O'Neill
Liberal Democrats	1.00 Maidment	1.00 T Johnson	0.60 Brown	0.80 Brown
Christchurch Independents	0.40	0.40 Hillard	0.24	0.32
Poole People and ALL	0.40	0.40 Baron	0.24 Rice	0.32
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	0.27 Northover	0.27	0.16	0.21 Wilson
Labour	0.20 Farquhar	0.20	0.12	0.16
Non-aligned	0.33	0.33	0.20	0.27

Summary of financial implications

9. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Summary of legal implications

10. 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.
11. The Act and Regulations make provision where a proposal is not as far as possible politically representative. This includes instances where a party gives up a seat which they are entitled to hold in favour of another and thus distorts the political balance rules. In such an instance such a proposal can only be accepted if no member votes against them.

Summary of human resources implications

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

Summary of sustainability impact

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

Summary of public health implications

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

Summary of equality implications

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

Summary of risk assessment

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

Background papers

None.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.