

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	10 May 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	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 appointment of outside bodies as part of the annual review.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Appendix 1, Table 1, be approved; (b) the allocation of seats to each political group, as set out in Appendix 1, Table 2, be approved; (c) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards, taking account of the membership as set out in Appendix 1, Table 3, be approved; (d) the allocation of seats to each political group on the outside bodies, as detailed in Appendix 1, Table 4, be approved; (e) the appointment of Councillors to the outside bodies, as detailed in Appendix 1, Table 5, be approved; (f) subject to (b) to (e) above the Council is requested to approve the appointment of unaligned Members to any Committees, Boards and Outside bodies.
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 Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services Karen Tompkins, Deputy Head of Democratic Services
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

- The Council is required to review the political balance of the Council on an annual basis and following any change in its membership. The meeting of Council which was adjourned from 26 April and reconvened at 6.00pm prior to this meeting, approved revised arrangements for the Overview and Scrutiny function. Appendix 1 to this report sets out the following:-
 - Table 1 – the political balance calculation and entitlement of seats
 - Table 2 – the allocation of seats on committees and boards to Political Groups and non-aligned Councillors
 - Table 3 – the appointment of Councillors to committees and boards
 - Table 4 – the allocation of seats to Political Groups and non-aligned Councillors on Outside Bodies to which political balance rules apply
 - Table 5 – the appointment of Councillors to Outside Bodies
- 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 seats are held by members of political groups. They need to be applied in the following order and as far as practicably possible:
 - Not all the seats on a committee are allocated to the same political group.
 - Where a group has a majority of seats on the Authority it should have the majority of seats on each committee.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- The Council is asked to consider the proposed changes to the allocation of seats to political groups as detailed in table 2 in the attached appendix which reflect the changes to the Overview and Scrutiny function. The last column in the table identifies the variance compared to the calculations set out in Table 1.
- Table 3 provides details of the membership of each Committees in accordance with the wishes of the political groups which were known at the time of producing this report. The political groups may at any time alter the Group's membership of Committees and Boards, but any seats allocated to unaligned Members must be approved by full Council. Where there are omissions in the political group

memberships, the relevant Group Leaders are requested to notify Democratic Services of the initial appointments by 12 noon on Friday 13 May 2022.

Other Bodies

5. The Council is also asked to consider and approve the allocation of seats and appointments to the bodies listed in Tables 4 and 5 in Appendix 1, which are required to be appointed in accordance with the political balance principles

Summary of financial implications

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

Summary of legal implications

7. 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.
8. The Act and Regulations make provision where a proposal is not as far as 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.

Summary of human resources implications

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

Summary of sustainability impact

10. There are no sustainability 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. It would be a matter for the political groups to consider any equality issues through their own appointment process.

Summary of risk assessment

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

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary tables 1 to 5 detailing political balance calculations and the allocation of seats and memberships.

Table 1 – Political Balance of the Council

(Table 1 below is the political balance of the Council. It should be noted that the calculations take account of the revised Overview and Scrutiny function agreed by the Council. The total number of seats on all committees is 104.)

	No of Seats	% of total seats	Seat entitlement*
Conservative	41	53.95%	56.11
Liberal Democrats	13	17.11%	17.79
Christchurch Independents	7	9.21%	9.58
Poole Independents	5	6.58%	6.84
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	4	5.26%	5.47
Labour	3	3.95%	4.11
Non-aligned	3	3.95%	4.11
Total	76	100%	104

Table 2 – Allocation of Committee Seats to Political Groups

	Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Corporate & Community O&S Committee	Place O&S Committee	Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee	Children's Services O&S Committee	Investigation and Disciplinary Committee	Total	Variance (+/-)
Conservative	8	8	4	4	5	6	6	6	6	3	56	+ 0
Liberal Democrats	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	18	+ 0
Christchurch Independents	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	10	+ 0
Poole Independents	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	7	+ 0
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	5	+ 0
Labour	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	+ 0
Non-aligned	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	4	+ 0
Total	15	15	7	7	9	11	11	11	11	7	104	

Table 3 - Appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards

	Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Corporate & Community O&S Committee	Place O&S Committee	Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee	Children's Services O&S Committee	Investigation and Disciplinary Committee
Conservative	Baron J Butt Davies Hall T Johnson Kelsey Lawton O'Neill	S Anderson J Butt Decent Dion Farr T Johnson Kelsey Williams	Borthwick D Butt J Butt Brooks	S Anderson Hedges Filer Haines	Beesley D Butt Fear Filer T Johnson	Allen Edwards Filer Hedges Rocca Williams	Dion Fear Gabriel Jones Kelly Lawton	Edwards Farr C Johnson Jones Phillips Stribley	Coope Gabriel Haines Kelly Phillips Rocca	Mellor* Broadhead** Jones
Liberal Democrats	Le Poidevin Trent	Brown Burton Slade	Andrews	Le Poidevin	Brooke Cox	Slade Vacancy	Earl	Matthews Robson	Burton Moore	Maidment Moore
Christchurch Independents	Hilliard McCormack	Flagg	Ricketts	Hilliard	Phipps	Dedman	Dedman	-	Geary	Flagg
Poole Independents	Vacancy TBA	Hadley	-	Miles	Rice	-	Vacancy TBA	Evans	-	Evans
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	Bull	-	Northover	-	-	-	Rigby	Wilson	Northover	-
Labour	Farquhar	Farquhar	-	-	-	Allison	-	-	Lewis	-
Non-aligned	-	Bagwell	-	-	-	Bartlett	Bartlett	Butler	-	-

* Leader of the Council in accordance with the Constitution

** Portfolio Holder in accordance with the Constitution

Table 4 - Allocation of Outside Body Seats to Political Groups

	Additional entitlement on outside bodies based on all Seats	Dorset Police and Crime Panel	Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority	Dorset Pension Fund Committee	Lower Central Gardens Trust Board*	Stour Valley and Poole Partnership Joint Committee	Total	Variance (+/-)
Conservative	11	3	3	2	2	1	11	+ 0
Liberal Democrats	3	0	1	1	0	1	3	+ 0
Christchurch Independents	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	+ 0
Poole Independents	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	+ 0
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	+ 0
Labour	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	+ 0
Non-aligned	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	+ 0
Total	21	5	5	3	4	4	21	

* 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 *	Stour Valley and Poole Partnership Joint Committee
Conservative	Dove Haines T Johnson	Baron Davies T Johnson	Beesley Dove	M Greene Williams	Haines
Liberal Democrats	-	Earl	Brown	-	Brown
Christchurch Independents	-	Hilliard	-	-	Dedman
Poole Independents	Howell	-	-	-	-
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	Rigby	-	-	Bull	-
Labour		-	-	-	Lewis
Non-aligned		-	-	Bartlett	-