



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	21 June 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, appointment of Councillors to Committees and appointments to Outside bodies following Councillors Steve Baron, Daniel Butt, Judes Butt and Mohan lyengar leaving the Conservative Group and subsequently establishing a new Political Group including Councillor Julie Bagwell.
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 Table 1 of this report be approved; (b) the allocation of seats to each political group, as set out in Table 2 (to follow), be approved; (c) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards, taking account of the membership as detailed in Table 3 (to follow), be approved; (d) the allocation of seats to each political group on the outside bodies as detailed in Table 4 (to follow), be approved; (e) the appointment of Councillors to the outside bodies, as detailed in Table 5 (to follow), be approved; (e) Subject to (b) and (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
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Council is asked to consider the political balance of the Council following notification that Councillors Steve Baron, Daniel Butt, Judes Butt and Mohan Iyengar had left the Conservative Group. Subsequently, formal notice has been received establishing a new political group comprising the councillors above plus Councillor Julie Bagwell. The new political group is named 'Poole Local Group'.
2. Set out in Table 1 below is the revised political balance of the Council reflecting these changes.

Table 1

	No of Seats	% of total seats	Seat entitlement*
Conservative	37	48.68	50.63
Liberal Democrats	13	17.11	17.79
Christchurch Independents	7	9.21	9.58
Poole Independents	5	6.58	6.84
Poole Local	5	6.58	6.84
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	4	5.26	5.47
Labour	3	3.95	4.11
Non-aligned	2	2.63	2.74
Total	76	100.00	104.00

3. 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 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.

4. At the time of publishing the report the tables 2 – 5 referenced in the recommendations require finalising and will be circulated in due course.
 - Table 2 – the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group and non-aligned Councillors
 - Table 3 – the appointments of Councillors to Committees
 - Table 4 – the allocation of seats on outside bodies to each political group and non-aligned Councillors
 - Table 5 – the appointment of Councillors to Outside bodies

Summary of financial implications

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

Summary of legal implications

6. 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.
7. The Act and Regulations make provisions 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

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

Summary of sustainability impact

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

Summary of public health implications

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

Summary of equality implications

11. 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

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

Background papers

None

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.