

Constitution of Committees and Advisory Panels; Allocation of Seats on Committees and Advisory Panels; Appointments to Committees and Advisory Panels; Appointments of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen

Head of Service/Contact:	Kathryn Beldon, Chief Executive
Annexes/Appendices (attached):	Annexe 1: Schedule of Nominations to Committees
Other available papers (not attached):	The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Local Government (Committees and Political Groups Regulations 1990 (as amended)

Report Summary

This report, in accordance with the relevant legislation, seeks the approval of the allocation of seats on Committees and Advisory Panels, the appointments to Committees and Advisory Panels and the appointments of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to those Committees and Advisory Panels.

Recommendation (s)

The Council is requested to:

- (1) Approve the recommended allocation of seats;
- (2) Allocate seats on the Committees and Advisory Panels in accordance with the wishes of the political groups set out in the Annexe to the report;
- (3) Appoint Chairmen and Vice Chairmen in light of the nominations received as set out in the Annexe to the report

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 There are no direct implications for the above matters arising from this report.

2 Background

- 2.1 Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires the allocation of seats on committees, advisory panels and certain other bodies

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to reflect the political make-up of the authority.

- 2.2 In performing this duty the authority must make only such determinations as give effect, so far as is reasonably practicable, to the following principles:
- 2.2.1 That not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group
- 2.2.2 That the majority of seats on the body are allocated to the group which is a majority of the authority's membership;
- 2.2.3 Subject to paragraphs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of the authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority;
- 2.2.4 Subject to paragraphs 2.2.1 and 2.2.3 that the number of seats on the specific body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.
- 2.3 At its Extraordinary Meeting in July 2017, Council endorsed the recommendation of the Strategy and Resources Committee to establish a Shareholder Sub-Committee comprising of 5 members: 4 RA Councillors and 1 Conservative Councillor.
- 2.4 There are 38 members of the Council and 67 seats in total on all of the Council's ordinary committees and sub-committee. Consequently, the number of seats each group should be allocated is as follows:

Residents' Association	31 of 38 = 0.816×67	54.672 (round to 54 or 55)
Conservative	4 of 38 = 0.105×67	7.035
Labour	3 of 38 = 0.079×67	4.898 (round to 4 or 5)

3 Allocation of Seats on Ordinary Committees and Sub-Committees

- 3.1 The seats available on ordinary Committees are as follows:

Ordinary Committees	Total Seats
Planning	13
Licensing and Planning Policy	10
Strategy and Resources	10
Community and Wellbeing	10
Environment	10

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Ordinary Committees	Total Seats
Standards	9
Shareholder Sub-Committee	5
	67

3.2 Accordingly, taking into account the principles set out in paragraph 2.2 above, this has resulted in the following recommended allocation of seats:

	Total Seats	RA	Con	Lab
Planning	13	11	1	1
Planning and Licensing Policy	10	8	1	1
Strategy and Resources	10	8	1	1
Environment	10	8	1	1
Community and Wellbeing	10	8	1	1
Standards	9	7	1	1
Shareholder Sub-Committee	5	4	1	0
		54	7	6

3.3 The allocation above results in a seating allocation that does not give best effect to the principle set out at paragraph 2.2.3 as it gives the Labour Group one more seat than its overall entitlement. In 2016/17, the “reasonably practicable” adjustment made to result in an allocation that more closely gave effect to this principle, and which made sense in pure percentage terms, was that the Labour Group did not have a seat on Standards Committee.

4 Allocation of seats on other committees and panels

4.1 The principles set out in paragraph 2 apply to allocation of seats on other committees and panels, and the suggested composition (based on the current allocation) is as follows:

Other Committees & Panels				
	Total Seats	RA	Con	Lab
Audit Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee	10	8	1	1
Financial Policy Panel	8	6	1	1
Health Liaison Panel	7	6	1	0
Human Resources Panel	6	5	1	0

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Other Committees & Panels				
	Total Seats	RA	Con	Lab
Licensing Hearings Panel	13	11	1	1
Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee	3	2	1	0
Surrey Police and Crime Panel	1	1	0	0

5 Individual Membership of Committees and appointment of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen

- 5.1 Once the Council has approved the manner of constituting the main Committees, then, in accordance with the 1989 Act and Standing Orders, it is necessary to make appointments on each Committee so as to give effect to the wishes of the relevant Groups.
- 5.2 The wishes of the relevant Groups are as set out in the **Annexe** to this report.
- 5.3 After the composition of each committee has been agreed, the Council will need to appoint Chairmen and Vice Chairmen and the majority group nominations are also set out in the **Annexe** to this report.

6 Financial and Manpower implications

- 6.1 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** *There are no financial or manpower implications for the purposes of this report.*

7 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 7.1 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** *There are no implications relating to matters of equality arising directly from this report and the relevant legal issues have been considered in the body of the report.*

8 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications; Partnerships

- 8.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

9 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 Provided the Council allocates seats on committees, so far as reasonably practicable in accordance with the requirements of the 1989 Act, there are no significant risks arising from the report.

10 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 10.1 It is recommended that committees and panels be appointed as set out above and seats on committees be allocated, and appointed, in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Ward(s) Affected: (All Wards);