



Report to Full Council

Date: 18 May 2022

Title: Committee Appointments and Proportionality, Substitutions, and Appointments to Partnerships and Outside Bodies

Author and/or contact officer: Sarah Ashmead, Monitoring Officer

Ward(s) affected: All

Recommendations: That the Council: -

1. Approves the allocation of seats on council committees to political groups at Appendix 1; (Appendix 2 with the nominations by political groups to council committees will be published at the meeting of the Council).
2. Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer, upon the written confirmation of a Group Leader, to vary their nomination on a given Committee and to make the appropriate amendments to membership (and notify all Members / Chairman of the appropriate Committee of the change).
3. Agrees that all Councillors may act as potential substitutes on committees, and delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer, upon the written confirmation of a Group Leader, to agree lists of proposed substitute nominations.
4. Notes the appointments made by the Leader for the municipal year 2022/23 of the chairmen of the Community Board (Appendix 3 with the appointments will be published at the meeting of the Council).
5. Delegates authority to the Leader, subject to any proportionality requirements, to approve the appointment of councillors to partnerships and outside bodies for 2022/2023.

Background

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to the proportionality arrangements for committees of

Buckinghamshire Council established in the constitution as follows:

- Strategic Sites Committee and the Area Planning Committees
- Licensing Committee
- the Pensions Fund Committee
- the Senior Appointments and Pay Committee
- the Standards and General Purposes Committee
- the Audit and Governance Committee
- the Select Committees

1.2 The report also deals with:

- the process for confirming lists of proposed substitute nominations for Committees.
- the appointments made by the Leader for the municipal year 2022/23 of the chairmen of the Community Boards.
- the process for approving the appointment of councillors to partnerships and outside bodies for 2022/2023.

Political Proportionality

1.3 The distribution of seats on Committees is governed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, which require the allocation to accord with the rules on proportionality. The Regulations state that seats on Committees must be allocated to each political group in the same proportion to the number of seats held by each of those groups on the Council (rules of aggregation as well as being in the correct proportions on each Committee individually, in so far as this may be practicable).

1.4 Currently, the seat covering the Bernwood Ward is vacant following the resignation of Councillor Cameron Branston on the 9 May 2022.

1.5 The political balance of the Council is currently 112 Conservatives, 15 Liberal Democrats, 6 Wycombe Independents, 6 Independents, 4 Labour, 2 Independent Network and 1 Green Party. There are 3 political groups comprising 112 (The Conservative Group), 21 (The Alliance Grouping) and 13 (IMPACT Alliance) Members.

There are no ungrouped members. Following the agreement of all political groups the final allocations proposed is listed in Appendix 1.

- 1.6 The allocation of total seats in line with political proportionality is as set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Total Seats

Political Group	Seats on Council	% of whole	Seats actual	Seats rounded
Conservative	112	76.7%	164.93	165
Alliance Grouping	21	14.4%	30.93	31
IMPACT Alliance	13	8.9%	19.14	19
Total	146	100%	215	215

- 1.7 The initial allocation of seats to committees in line with political proportionality (before adjustments) is as set out in Table 2 and 3 below.

Table 2 – Initial calculations before adjustments

Committees	No	Conservative		Alliance Grouping		IMPACT Alliance	
		Strict	Rounded	Strict	Rounded	Strict	Rounded
Pension Fund	7	5.370	5	1.007	1	0.623	1
Senior Appointments	7	5.370	5	1.007	1	0.623	1
Strategic Sites	12	9.205	9	1.726	2	1.068	1
Audit & Governance	12	9.205	9	1.726	2	1.068	1
Standards	14	10.740	11	2.014	2	1.247	1
Licensing	15	11.507	12	2.158	2	1.336	1
Area Planning North	12	9.205	9	1.726	2	1.068	1
Area Planning East	12	9.205	9	1.726	2	1.068	1
Area Planning West	12	9.205	9	1.726	2	1.068	1
Area Planning Central	12	9.205	9	1.726	2	1.068	1
Area Planning South	10	7.671	8	1.438	1	0.890	1
Select Committee – Health & Adult Social Care	15	11.507	12	2.158	2	1.336	1

Select Committee - Children & Education	15	11.507	12	2.158	2	1.336	1
Select Committee - Transport, Environment & Climate Change	15	11.507	12	2.158	2	1.336	1
Select Committee – Communities & Localism	15	11.507	12	2.158	2	1.336	1
Select Committee - Growth, Infrastructure & Housing	15	11.507	12	2.158	2	1.336	1
Select Committee – Finance & Resources	15	11.507	12	2.158	2	1.336	1
Aggregate	215	164.932	167	30.925	31	19.144	17
Adjustment required			-2		0		2

Table 3- Initial allocations of seats on other committees and outside bodies

Committee	Size	Conservative	Alliance Grouping	IMPACT Alliance	Remainder
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority	12	9	2	1	0
BOB (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West) Joint Health Scrutiny and Overview Committee	6	5	1	1	-1
Chilterns Conservation Board	5	4	1	0	0

Note – The Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority agreed to increase the Buckinghamshire Council representation from 11 to 12 for the municipal year 2022-23 at its meeting on 16 February 2022.

Table 4 – Committee size & model allocation of seats by Group

Size	Conservative	Alliance Grouping	IMPACT Alliance	Remainder
3	2	0	0	1
4	3	1	0	0
5	4	1	0	0
6	5	1	1	-1
7	5	1	1	0
8	6	1	1	0
9	7	1	1	0
10	8	1	1	0
11	8	2	1	0
12	9	2	1	0
13	10	2	1	0
14	11	2	1	0
15	12	2	1	0
16	12	2	1	1

Appointments

- 1.8 Group Leaders have appointed members to the committees according to these proportionality arrangements (Appendix 2 – paper to follow).
- 1.9 In the case of Community Boards, Buckinghamshire Council councillors from the respective area are eligible to be members of the Boards. Details of Board membership is included on the Council’s website.
- 1.10 The Leader will make a verbal announcement of the appointments of the Chairmen of the 16 Community Boards. A schedule of appointments for 2022/23 will be published following the meeting (Appendix 3 – paper to follow).
- 1.11 In the case of the High Wycombe Town Committee, all Buckinghamshire Council councillors from the unparished area are appointed as members of the Committee (see Appendix 4).

Substitutes

- 1.12 The appointment of substitute Members on Committees and Sub-Committees is dealt with in the Committee Procedure Rules of the Constitution at paragraphs 2.76 to 2.80.

1.13 While all Members may act as potential substitutes onto Committees, subject to requirements within the Constitution (e.g. the Audit and Governance Committee, Standards and General Purposes Committee and the Pension Fund Committee do not permit substitutes; in order to be eligible to sit as substitutes on regulatory or administrative committees or panels or staff appointments or disciplinary bodies established by the Council, councillors must have received formal training in relevant procedures and the law), it is proposed that authority is delegated to the Monitoring Officer, upon the written confirmation of a Group Leader, to agree lists of proposed substitute nominations.

Appointment of Councillors to Partnerships and Outside Bodies

1.14 The Council is responsible for appointing members to a range of partnerships and outside bodies.

1.15 Following consultation with external bodies, the Council has established a schedule of partnerships and outside bodies to which Buckinghamshire Council is responsible for making appointments. These include national, regional, countywide and local bodies and partnerships. In some cases, these are strategic organisations where Members can shape and influence policy affecting Buckinghamshire. In others, the role of the appointed Member is important in promoting the relationship with the Council. The schedule identifies the number of places that the Council can appoint to in each case.

1.16 It is proposed that following further consideration which includes the appointment of Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members, authority is delegated to the Leader to approve the appointment of councillors to partnerships and outside bodies for 2022/2023.

1.17 Where political proportionality applies, consultation would take place with the relevant Group Leader(s). In 2022/23, this applies to the Chiltern Conservation Board.

Legal and financial implications

1.18 The legal implications are as detailed within the body of the report.

1.19 Appointments to Partnerships and Outside Bodies – No allowances are payable by the Council for appointment to these bodies and therefore no financial implications have been identified.

Consultation and communication

1.20 Consultation on the proportionality and appointments has taken place with the Group Leaders

Appendix 1 – Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups

Attached

Appendix 2 – Nominations by Political Groups to Council Committees

“To follow”

Appendix 3 – Appointments made by the Leader for the municipal year 2022/23 of the chairmen of the Community Boards

“To follow”

Appendix 4 - High Wycombe Town Committee

Membership of the High Wycombe Town Committee is not determined according to proportionality arrangements and consists of those Members representing the following wards: Abbey; Booker, Cressex and Castlefield; Downley; Ryemead and Micklefield; Terriers and Amersham Hill; Totteridge and Bowerdean; Tylers Green and Loudwater; West Wycombe

Arman Alam (Con)
Marcus Angell (Con)
Mohammed Ayub (Con)
Steven Barrett (Con)
Karen Bates (Lab)
Andrea Baughan (Wycombe Independent)
Lesley Clarke OBE (Con)
Tony Green (Con)
Steve Guy (Wycombe Independent)
Darren Hayday (Independent Network)
Orsolya Hayday (Independent Network)
Arif Hussain (Con)
Imran Hussain (Wycombe Independent)
Majid Hussain (Lab)
Maz Hussain (Con)
Mahboob Hussain JP (Con)
Matt Knight (Wycombe Independent)
Sarfraz Khan Raja (Con)
Nabeela Rana (Wycombe Independent)
Melanie Smith (Lab)
Nathan Thomas (Con)
Paul Turner (Con)
Julia Wassell (Wycombe Independent)
Katrina Wood (Con)