



Report to Full Council

Date: 17 May 2023

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

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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 details of the individual nominations by political groups to council committees will be published at the Council meeting).
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 or vary lists of proposed substitute nominations.
4. Notes the appointments made by the Leader for the municipal year 2023/24 of the chairmen of the Community Board (Appendix 3 with the appointments will be published at the Council meeting).
5. Approves the appointment of councillors to partnerships and outside bodies for 2023/24 (Appendix 5 – to be published at the Council meeting)

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 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 2023/24 of the chairmen of the Community Boards.

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 The most recent proportionality review was considered at the Council meeting on 22 February 2023. Proportionality is unchanged since that review.

1.5 The political balance of the Council is currently 112 Conservatives, 16 Liberal Democrats, 6 Independents, 6 Labour, 4 Wycombe Independents, 2 Independent Network and 1 Green Party. There are 3 political groups comprising 112 (The Conservative Group), 20 (The Alliance Grouping) and 15 (IMPACT Alliance) Members. There are no ungrouped members. Following the agreement of all political groups the final allocations proposed are 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 | 76.2% | 163.81 | 164 |
| Alliance Grouping | 21 | 13.6% | 29.25 | 29 |
| IMPACT Alliance | 13 | 10.2% | 21.94 | 22 |
| 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 | 5.333 | 5 | 0.952 | 1 | 0.714 | 1 |
| Senior Appointments | 7 | 5.333 | 5 | 0.952 | 1 | 0.714 | 1 |
| Strategic Sites | 12 | 9.143 | 9 | 1.633 | 2 | 1.224 | 1 |
| Audit & Governance | 12 | 9.143 | 9 | 1.633 | 2 | 1.224 | 1 |
| Standards | 14 | 10.667 | 11 | 1.905 | 2 | 1.429 | 1 |
| Licensing | 15 | 11.429 | 11 | 2.041 | 2 | 1.531 | 2 |
| Area Planning North | 12 | 9.143 | 9 | 1.633 | 2 | 1.224 | 1 |
| Area Planning East | 12 | 9.143 | 9 | 1.633 | 2 | 1.224 | 1 |
| Area Planning West | 12 | 9.143 | 9 | 1.633 | 2 | 1.224 | 1 |
| Area Planning Central | 12 | 9.143 | 9 | 1.633 | 2 | 1.224 | 1 |
| Area Planning South | 10 | 7.619 | 8 | 1.361 | 1 | 1.020 | 1 |
| Select Committee – Health & Adult Social Care | 15 | 11.429 | 11 | 2.041 | 2 | 1.531 | 2 |
| Select Committee - Children & Education | 15 | 11.429 | 11 | 2.041 | 2 | 1.531 | 2 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|---------|-----|--------|----|--------|----|
| Select Committee - Transport, Environment & Climate Change | 15 | 11.429 | 11 | 2.041 | 2 | 1.531 | 2 |
| Select Committee – Communities & Localism | 15 | 11.429 | 11 | 2.041 | 2 | 1.531 | 2 |
| Select Committee - Growth, Infrastructure & Housing | 15 | 11.429 | 11 | 2.041 | 2 | 1.531 | 2 |
| Select Committee – Finance & Resources | 15 | 11.429 | 11 | 2.041 | 2 | 1.531 | 2 |
| Aggregate | 215 | 163.810 | 160 | 29.252 | 31 | 21.939 | 24 |
| Adjustment required | | | 4 | | -2 | | -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 (9.14) | 2 (1.63) | 1 (1.22) | 0 |
| BOB (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West) Joint Health Scrutiny and Overview Committee | 6 | 5(4) (4.57) | 1 (0.82) | 1 (0.61) | -1* |
| Chilterns Conservation Board | 5 | 4 (3.81) | 1 (0.68) | 1(0) (0.51) | -1* |

* In the case of a remainder of -1, the most marginal seat is lost. Adjusted figures are shown in bold above.

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 | 1 | -1 |
| 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 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 13 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 16 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

Appointments to Committees

- 1.8 Group Leaders have appointed members to the committees according to these proportionality arrangements (Appendix 2 – paper to be published at the Council meeting).
- 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. A schedule setting out the Leader’s appointments of Chairmen of the 16 Community Boards for 2023/24 will be published at the Council meeting.
- 1.10 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

- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 While all Members can substitute 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 or vary lists of proposed substitute nominations.

Appointment of Councillors to Partnerships and Outside Bodies

- 1.13 The Council is responsible for appointing members to a range of partnerships and outside bodies. 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 Leader is responsible for nominations to the appointments. Where political proportionality applies, nominations are made by the relevant Group Leader(s). In 2023/24, this applies to the Chiltern Conservation Board.
- 1.14 The Council is invited to approve the appointment of councillors to partnerships and outside bodies for 2023/2024 (Appendix 5 – to be published at the Council meeting).
- 1.15 The schedule of appointments will be kept under review during the year and the Leader will notify the Monitoring Officer of any changes that arise.

Legal and financial implications

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

Consultation and communication

- 1.17 Consultation on 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 be published at the Council meeting

Appendix 3 – Appointments made by the Leader for the municipal year 2023/24 of the chairmen of the Community Boards

To be published at the Council meeting

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 (Lab)
Lesley Clarke OBE (Con)
Tony Green (Con)
Steve Guy (Lab)
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)

Appendix 5 – Nominations to Partnerships and Outside Bodies

To be published at the Council meeting