



Report to Full Council

Date: 6 December 2023

Title: Committee Proportionality Review

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

Ward(s) affected: All

Recommendations: That: -

- 1. The Council approves the allocation of seats on council committees and other bodies to political groups at Appendix 1**

Background

- 1.1 A request has been received from the Alliance Grouping Leader to conduct a proportionality review. Since the last proportionality review in September 2023, Cllr Anja Shaefer has been elected via by-election and subsequently joined the Alliance Grouping. Cllr Luisa Sullivan has left the Conservative Group and is ungrouped. Cllr Ron Gaffney, a former member of the Conservative Group sadly passed away on 6 November 2023. Cllr David Anthony, former member of the Conservative Group, resigned on 13 November 2023. These political group changes have resulted in a change in proportionality as detailed below, which is based on 145 Members.
- 1.2 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

The report also seeks approval to the proportional allocation of seats for other bodies listed in Table 3 and in Appendix 1.

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 political balance of the Council is currently 109 Conservatives, 17 Liberal Democrats, 7 Independents, 6 Labour, 3 Wycombe Independents, 2 Independent Network and 1 Green Party. There are 3 political groups comprising 109 (The Conservative Group), 20 (The Alliance Grouping) and 15 (IMPACT Alliance) Members. There is one ungrouped Councillor, and there are two vacant seats. Following the agreement of all political groups the final allocations proposed are listed in Appendix 1.
- 1.5 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	109	75.2%	161.62	162
Alliance Grouping	20	13.8%	29.66	30
IMPACT Alliance	15	10.3%	22.24	22
Ungrouped	1	0.7%	1.48	1
Total	145	100%	215	215

- 1.6 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	5.262	5	0.966	1	0.724	1
Senior Appointments	7	5.262	5	0.966	1	0.724	1
Strategic Sites	12	9.021	9	1.655	2	1.241	1
Audit & Governance	12	9.021	9	1.655	2	1.241	1
Standards	14	10.524	11	1.931	2	1.448	1
Licensing	15	11.276	11	2.069	2	1.552	2
Area Planning North	12	9.021	9	1.655	2	1.241	1
Area Planning East	12	9.021	9	1.655	2	1.241	1
Area Planning West	12	9.021	9	1.655	2	1.241	1
Area Planning Central	12	9.021	9	1.655	2	1.241	1
Area Planning South	10	7.517	8	1.379	1	1.034	1
Select Committee – Health & Adult Social Care	15	11.276	11	2.069	2	1.552	2
Select Committee - Children & Education	15	11.276	11	2.069	2	1.552	2
Select Committee - Transport, Environment & Climate Change	15	11.276	11	2.069	2	1.552	2
Select Committee – Communities & Localism	15	11.276	11	2.069	2	1.552	2
Select Committee - Growth, Infrastructure & Housing	15	11.276	11	2.069	2	1.552	2
Select Committee – Finance & Resources	15	11.276	11	2.069	2	1.552	2
Aggregate	215	161.621	160	29.655	31	22.241	24
Adjustment required			+2		-1		-2

Note – the ungrouped Member is entitled to one seat.

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 (9.021)	2 (1.655)	1 (1.241)	0
BOB (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West) Joint Health Scrutiny and Overview Committee	6	4 (4.510)	1 (0.828)	1 (0.621)	-1*
Chilterns Conservation Board	5	4 (3.759)	1 (0.690)	0 (0.517)	-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	2	1	0
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

Legal and financial implications

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

Consultation and communication

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



Final allocations of Seats (figures in bold indicate where adjustments have been made)

Committee	Size	Conservative	Alliance Grouping	IMPACT Alliance	Ungrouped
Pension Fund	7	5	1	1	
Senior Appointments	7	5	1	1	
Strategic Sites	12	9	2	1	
Audit & Governance	12	9	2	1	
Standards	14	11	2	1	
Licensing	15	11	2	2	
Area Planning North	12	9	2	1	
Area Planning East	12	9	2	1	
Area Planning West	12	9	2	1	
Area Planning Central	12	9	2	1	
Area Planning South	10	8	1*	1*	
Select Committee – Health & Adult Social Care	15	12 (11)	2	1 (2)	
Select Committee - Children & Education	15	11	2	2	
Select Committee - Transport, Environment & Climate Change	15	11	1 (2)	2	1
Select Committee – Communities & Localism	15	11	2	2	
Select Committee - Growth, Infrastructure & Housing	15	11	2	2	
Select Committee – Finance & Resources	15	12 (11)	2	1 (2)	
Total	215	162 (160)	30 (31)	22 (24)	1

* By mutual agreement between Group Leaders, the Alliance Grouping seat on Area Planning South will be taken up by the IMPACT Alliance

Figures in brackets show the original calculated proportionality seats. Due to rounding, this results in an under-allocation for the Conservative Group of 2 seats, an over-allocation of 1 seat for the Alliance Grouping, and an over-allocation of 2 seats for the IMPACT Alliance Group. Figures in bold indicate where committee seats have been manually adjusted with the agreement of Group Leaders to arrive at the correct committee seat entitlements for Groups overall.

Compared with the last proportionality review in September 2023, the Alliance Grouping gain seats on the Communities & Localism Select Committee and Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee, at the expense of the Conservative Group; additionally, the ungrouped Member gains a seat on the Transport, Environment & Climate Change, at the expense of the Conservative Group.

Final allocation of seats on other committees and outside bodies

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

Figures in brackets show the original calculated proportionality seats. The proportionality calculations result in an over-allocation of one seat to the BOB Joint Health Scrutiny and Overview Committee and Chiltern Conservation Board – in each case, the most marginal seat is lost (adjusted figures are shown in bold).

