

Review of Proportionality

09/12/2025

COUNCIL
9 December 2025

PART I

**Review of Political Proportionality
(CEO)**

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the impact on the political balance of the Council and the allocation of Committee seats following a Councillor's decision to sit as an independent member.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Council notes the political proportionality of committees set out at Appendix A.
- 2.2 Council appoints the Member nominated by the Conservative Group to the vacant seat on the Climate Change and Leisure Committee.
- 2.3 Council appoints Councillor Mike Sims to the Audit Committee as an independent councillor.

3. Details

- 3.1 On 22 October 2025 Councillor Mike Sims resigned from the Conservative Group, electing to sit as an independent councillor. As a result, a review of the Council's political proportionality is required.
- 3.2 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 imposes a duty on the District Council to review the allocation of seats on its committees between political groups as soon as reasonably possible following any change to the political groups.
- 3.3 Political groups are allocated seats proportionate to their size, subject to the majority group being first given a majority of seats on the committees.
- 3.4 The table below shows the number of seats allocated to each committee:

Committee	Seats Available
Council Tax Setting Committee	7
Planning Committee	11
Regulatory Services Committee	9
Licensing Committee	9
Policy and Resources Committee	13
Climate Change and Leisure Committee	9
General Public Services and Public Engagement	9
Audit Committee	9
TOTAL	76

3.5 In accordance with the legislation, the following principles should apply to the allocation of seats as far as reasonably practicable:

i. That not all the seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;

ii. That the majority of the seats on each committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;

iii. Subject to (1) and (2) above, when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council, must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership; and

iv. Subject to (1) to (3) above, that the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.

3.6 Following the above changes to Group numbers, the political balance of the Council is as follows:

Political Party	Conservative	Green	Labour	Lib Dem	Independent G	Independent	Total
Council Composition (Groups)	11	3	3	19	2	1	39
Proportional Allocation *	28.21%	7.69%	7.69%	48.72%	5.13%	2.56%	100.00%

3.7 As no group on the Council has a majority, it is principles iii and iv that are critical. This calculation, which needs to be made in accordance with the Council's constitution, along with the appointment to committees, is included at Appendix A to this report.

3.8 The review of political proportionality means that the Conservative Group need to appoint a Member to fill their vacancy on the Climate Change and Leisure Committee.

4. Options and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1. No alternative options. The Council is obligated to ensure that the political make up of their committees is politically proportionate.

5. Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

5.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets.

5.2 The recommendations in this report do not impact on the achievement of specific performance indicators

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The legal implications are contained in the main body of the report.

7. Financial, Staffing, Equal Opportunities, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

7.1 None specific.

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Appendix A – political proportionality of committees

