



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Name and Date of Committee	<b>COUNCIL – 27 NOVEMBER 2024</b>
Subject	<b>REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITIES</b>
Wards Affected	None
Accountable Member	N/A
Accountable Officer	Andrea McCaskie, Director of Governance Email: <a href="mailto:democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk">democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
Report Author	Andrew Brown, Democratic Services Business Manager Email: <a href="mailto:democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk">democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To review the political proportionalities on committees following receipt of a notice that a member has joined a group.
Annexes	Annex A – Political proportionalities on committees
Recommendation(s)	That Council resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Agree the political proportionalities as set out in Annex A.</li><li>2. Appoint to any vacant seats on committees in accordance with the wishes of the political group to which the seat has been allocated, as expressed at the meeting.</li><li>3. Note that any remaining vacancies on committees shall be appointed to by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the wishes of the political group to which the vacant seat has been allocated and that Council will be asked to ratify and note any such appointments at the next ordinary Council meeting.</li></ol>
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working Together for West Oxfordshire</li></ul>
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Leader of affected political groups

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the Act”) requires the Council to allocate Committee seats to political groups, in proportion to the size of those groups on the Council. The requirement is for the representation of each group to be proportional on each committee, and on the total number of seats on committees overall.
- 1.2 Under Section 17 of The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Council has a duty to review the allocation seats on committees as soon as practicable after a notice is received by the Proper Officer confirming that a member has joined a political group and that a review of the allocation of seats is requested, provided the notice is received at least one month after the previous review.

## **2. CHANGE OF GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1 On Friday 15 November 2024 a notice was received by the Proper Officer confirming that Councillor Michael Baggaley had joined the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council and that a review of the political proportionalities on committees was requested. Councillor Baggaley was elected at the Chipping Norton by-election held on 14 November 2024.

## **3. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES**

- 3.1 Annex A shows the proportionalities on committees with changes since the previous review of political proportionalities, at the 22 May 2024 Annual Meeting of Council given in brackets.
- 3.2 The Liberal Democrat Group has gained one seat on the Development Control Committee and one seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, both from the Labour Group. The Labour Group had a vacant seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and has been asked to confirm which Member will come off Development Control Committee.
- 3.3 Where there are changes to be made to the membership of committees, the relevant group leaders are asked to announce the nominated Members at the 27 November 2024 full Council meeting for appointment by full Council or alternative notify the Monitoring Officer for appointment under delegated authority.
- 3.4 If required, the Monitoring Officer will use their delegated authority to appoint to vacancies on committees in accordance with the wishes of political groups (Constitution Part 5A, rule 2.4). Such appointments will be reported to the next meeting of Council for noting and ratification.

## **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Council has a duty to review the allocation of seats on committees when a review is triggered, and to appoint to committees based on political proportionality.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The legal issues are set out in the body of the report.

**7. RISK ASSESSMENT**

7.1 There is a risk that if committees are not properly appointed this could result in a delay in decision making for the Council or increase the risk of decisions being successfully challenged.

**8. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.1 There are no impacts on equalities.

**9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no climate or ecological implications.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None.

(END)