



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and Date of Committee	COUNCIL – 27 SEPTEMBER 2023
Subject	REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITIES
Wards Affected	None
Accountable Member	N/A
Accountable Officer	Andrea McCaskie, Director of Governance Email: democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk
Report Author	Andrew Brown, Democratic Services Business Manager Email: democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk
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 with three overview and scrutiny committees (to follow) Annex B – Political proportionalities on committees with one overview and scrutiny committee (to follow)
Recommendation(s)	That Council resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agree the political proportionalities as set out in either Annex A (political proportionalities with three overview and scrutiny committees) or Annex B (political proportionalities with one overview and scrutiny committee), depending on the previous decision of Council on the number of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.2. Note that group leaders are asked to confirm any changes to committee membership to the Monitoring Officer.3. Note that any 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 is allocated and that Council will be asked to ratify and note the appointments at the next ordinary Council meeting.

Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Together for West Oxfordshire
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Chief Executive

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 Monday 18 September 2023 a notice was received by the Proper Officer confirming that Councillor Mathew Parkinson had joined the Labour Group on the Council and that a review of the political proportionalities on committees was requested. Councillor Parkinson was previously a member of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council.

3. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

- 3.1 There are two annexes setting out the updated allocations of seats on committees. Annex A shows the proportionalities on committees under the existing committee structure. Annex B shows the proportionalities on committees with a single overview and scrutiny committee. Council is asked to agree to the allocation of seats in either Annex A or Annex B, depending on the earlier decision taken by Council on 27 September as to whether or not to change the structure of overview and scrutiny committees.
- 3.2 Where there are changes to be made to the membership of committees, the relevant group leaders are asked to notify the Monitoring Officer.
- 3.3 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 and sub-committee 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)