



## General Purposes Committee

22 June 2026

### Report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources

## Review of Representation of Political Groups and Appointments

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
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### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At its Annual meeting on 20 May 2026, Full Council reviewed and determined the representation of political groups on its main committees and subsequently made appointments to these, in accordance with the wishes of the political groups concerned. As soon as practicable after such a review has been completed, this Committee is also required to review and determine the representation of political groups on its Sub-committees and then make appointments giving effect to the wishes of the political groups allocated seats.
- 1.2 The current membership of the Council consists of 57 councillors, which has been used as the basis for the annual review.

### 2.0 Recommendations

On the basis of the current membership of the Council, the Committee:

- 2.1 Agrees the size of each sub-committee to be appointed by the Committee;
- 2.2 Agrees the allocation of seats to political groups on each of the sub-committees in accordance with political balance rules; and
- 2.3 Appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Members and Substitutes to each Sub-committee under Item 9 of the agenda giving effect to the wishes of the political group(s) allocated the seats.

### **3.0 Detail**

#### **3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context**

- 3.1.1 The allocation of seats on each of the Council's committees to which the political balance rules apply supports delivery of the borough plan by enabling the Council's decision making bodies to operate transparently and effectively whilst also supporting and promoting confidence in the good governance of the council.

#### **3.2 Background**

- 3.2.1 As General Purposes Committee has been constituted as an ordinary committee of the Council, it was included as part of the review and determination of the representation of political groups on Council committees undertaken at the Annual Council meeting on 20 May 2026 with the appointment of Members agreed, in accordance with the wishes of the political groups concerned.
- 3.2.2 As General Purposes Committee has three Sub-Committees, it now has a statutory duty to review and determine the representation of political groups on these Sub-committees as soon as practicable after the review undertaken by Full Council in respect of its ordinary committees. The Committee then has a duty to make appointments to those Sub-Committees giving effect to the wishes of the political groups allocated the seats.
- 3.2.3 The allocation of seats is determined by applying the political balance principles prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and supplemented by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. These principles are set out below and are designed to ensure that the political composition of committees and sub-committees, as far as reasonably practicable, replicates the political composition of Full Council.
- 3.2.4 The political balance principles are:
  - (i) That not all the seats on the Sub-committee are allocated to the same political group.
  - (ii) That the majority of the seats on the Sub-Committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership.

(iii) Subject to paragraphs (i) and to (ii) above, that the number of the seats on the Sub-Committee which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Sub-Committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.

3.2.5 There is a 4th principle (that each political group is allocated the same proportion of the total seats across all the ordinary committee of the Council as the proportion of the members of the Council that belong to that group). This covers the appointments to ordinary committees and was applied to the relevant bodies at the Annual Council meeting. The legislation does not apply this principle to the appointment of Sub-Committees.

3.2.6 On the basis that the overall membership of the Council stands at 57 and following on from the outcome of the local elections on 7 May 2026, the composition of political groups as a percentage of overall membership on the Council now stands as follows:

- 26 Labour Group councillors – representing 45.61% of the total council membership.
- 11 Conservative Group councillors – representing 19.30% of the total council membership.
- 11 Liberal Democrat councillors – representing 19.30% of the total council membership.
- 9 Green councillors – representing 15.79% of the total council membership.

3.2.7 According to the political balance rules, a political group for this purpose is a group of two or more members.

3.2.8 The application of the three principles listed in 3.2.4 above therefore results in the following allocation of seats:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Sub Committee</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Labour Group 26 (45.61%)</b>	<b>Conservative Group 11 (19.30%)</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats Group 11 (19.30%)</b>	<b>Green Group 9 (15.79%)</b>
General Purposes	Pension Fund Sub-Committee*	7	3	2*	1	1
	Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee	5	2	1	1	1
	Senior Staff Appeals Sub-Committee	5	2	1	1	1

\* Based on the principles in 3.2.4 above the final seat available for allocation on the Sub Committee falls between the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups.

Following consultation with the relevant Group Leaders it has been agreed, subject to the Committee's decision, this is allocated to the Conservative Group.

- 3.2.9 Subsequent to allocating seats, the General Purposes Committee has a duty to make appointments to their specified sub committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group(s) allocated the seats. The appointments to each sub-committee being made by the respective political groups are set out in the paper listed as Item 9 on the agenda.

#### **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

- 4.1 The proposed allocation of seats on each Sub Committee has been subject to consultation with each individual group on the Council.

#### **5.0 Financial Considerations**

- 5.1 There are no financial considerations arising directly from this report.

#### **6.0 Legal Considerations**

- 6.1 These are addressed in the main body of the report.

#### **7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

- 7.1 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising their functions to have 'due regard' to the need:

- a) To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity; and
- c) Foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.

- 7.2 This is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

- 7.3 The purpose of the duty is to enquire into whether a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision. Due regard is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances.

- 7.4 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report at this stage.

#### **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

- 8.1 None directly arising from this report.

#### **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

- 9.1 None directly arising from this report.

## 10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 None directly arising from this report.

Report sign off:

***Minesh Patel***

Corporate Director Finance &  
Resources