

Agenda Item 9

Part I

Main author: Richard Baker

Not Ward Specific

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
ANNUAL COUNCIL – 20 MAY 2024
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION)

REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to review the political proportionality of Member appointments to Committees to take account of the results of the Borough Council Election on 2 May 2024.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Constitution be updated as set out in 3.5 to enable the political proportionality of Committees.
- 2.2 That the review of political proportionality of Member appointments to Committees be noted and the allocation of seats be as set out in the schedule to the report.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 It is necessary to review the political proportionality of Member appointments to Committees following the Borough Council election on 2 May 2024 and to reflect the results in the constitution of Committees.
- 3.2 The Council has a legal duty to secure the balance of the different political groups on the authority.
- 3.3 The nominations for Member appointments to Committees listed under agenda item 10(c) are in accordance with this review of political proportionality.
- 3.4 The constitution sets out the number of members for each Committee where these are determined by national guidance (for example the CIPFA guidance on Audit Committees).
- 3.5 For those which are not, it generally sets out a range in which the Committee size will be, to ensure political proportionality is achieved. There are however two committees which state the number as 13, and it is recommended these be amended to the range of 10 to 15, the same as the Licencing Committee, to ensure that political proportionality is always achieved as required by legislation.
- 3.6 The new Cabinet Panels, as agreed at the previous meeting of the Constitution Review Group, and Full Council Meeting of the 15 November 2023, have been added to the proportionality table attached to this report. These are the Community Cabinet Panel and the Climate and Biodiversity Cabinet Panel.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 Section 15 and Schedule 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 set

out the Council's legal duty to reflect the overall political composition of the Council in the appointment of Members to Committees.

5 Financial Implication(s)

5.1 None

6 Risk Management Implications

6.1 None

7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

7.1 None

8 Procurement Implication(s)

8.1 None

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

9.1 None

10 Human Resources Implication(s)

10.1 None

11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

11.1 None

12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

12.1 None.

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

13.1 The subject of this report is linked to a statutory requirement under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations.

14 Equality and Diversity

14.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out in connection with the proposals that are set out in this report. It is considered that there are no differential impacts.

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Date	16 May 2024

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Committee Proportionality Ratios

Seats on Council	2023/24		2024/25	
Conservative	22	45.83%	12	25.00%
Liberal Democrats	14	29.17%	16	33.33%
Labour	12	25%	20	41.67%
TOTAL	48	100%	48	100%

Committee	Seats		Ratio	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
Estates Management Appeals Panel	9	9	4:3:2	2:3:4
Audit Committee	5	5	2:2:1	1:2:2
Cabinet Housing Panel	11	12	5:3:3	3:4:5
Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel	13	12	6:4:3	3:4:5
Grants Board	9	9	4:3:2	2:3:4
Community Cabinet Panel	N/A	7	N/A	2:2:3
Climate Biodiversity Cabinet Panel	N/A	7	N/A	2:2:3
Overview and Scrutiny	13	12	6:4:3	3:4:5
Development Management	13	12	6:4:3	3:4:5
Campus West Cabinet Panel	7	N/A	3:2:2	N/A
Licensing	7	12	3:2:2	3:4:5
Total seats	87	97	87	97
Entitlement (seats)			39:27:21	24:32:41

Notes:

This is the list of Committees included in the calculations for political proportionality. Groups will also have seats on other bodies not shown in this list.

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EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS 2024/25
APPOINTED BY THE LEADER

Cabinet

Cllr Max Holloway (C) - Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Climate Change

Cllr Jane Quinton (VC) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Leisure and Community

Cllr Sandreni Bonfante - Executive Member for Environment

Cllr Kieran Thorpe - Executive Member for Governance

Cllr Gemma Moore – Executive Member for Housing

Cllr Rose Grewal - Executive Member for Planning

Cllr James Broach - Executive Member for Resources

Note

(C) Denotes Chair

(VC) Denotes Vice Chair

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NON-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES 2024/25

Standards Committee

(Note: To include one Executive Member plus 1 non-voting Co-Opted Local Councils Association Representative)

Constitution: 5 Members +1 co-opted

Ratio: 1:2:2

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Tony Kingsbury	Margaret Birleson (C)	Michal Siewniak
	Alan Chesterman	Paul Zukowskyj

Representative of the Welwyn Hatfield Association of Local Councils (non-voting):

B.Morris

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(Note: Not to include members of Cabinet)

Constitution: 12 Members

Ratio 3:5:4

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
George Michaelides	Lynn Chesterman (VC)	Duncan Jones (C)
Terry Mitchinson	Larry Crofton	Tim Rowse
Bernard Sarson (VC)	Katherine Gardner	Darrell Panter
	Lucy Musk	Adrienne Nix
	Shirley Asare	

Development Management Committee

(Note: May include one Cabinet Member, but not as the Chairman or Vice Chairman)

Constitution: 12 Members

Ratio 3:5:4

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Barbara Fitzsimon	Katherine Gardner (VC)	Jean-Paul Skoczylas (C)
Mark Short	Pankit Shah	Darrell Panter
Roger Trigg	Cathy Watson	Helena Goldwater
	Alan Chesterman	Tony Skottowe
	Ian Walsh	

Note

(C) Denotes Chair

(VC) Denotes Vice Chair

NON-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES 2024/25

Audit Committee

(Note: 5 Members of the Council, who are independent of Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committee plus at least one co-opted independent)

Constitution: 5 Members + at least 1 co-opted

Ratio 1:2:2

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Jonathan Boulton	Cathy Watson (VC)	Darrell Panter (C)
	Karthik Bonkur	Russ Platt

Victoria Welburn-Smith (Independent Person)

Licensing Committee

Constitution: 12 Members

Ratio 3:5:4

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Julie Cragg	Jill Weston (C)	Helena Goldwater (VC)
Bernard Sarson	Alan Chesterman	Duncan Jones
Roger Trigg	Ian Walsh	Jane Quinton
	Leo Gilbert	Tony Skottowe
	Karthik Bonkur	

Grants Board

Constitution: 9 Members

Ratio 2:4:3

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Alex Bardett	Margaret Birleson (C)	Duncan Jones (VC)
Rebecca Lass	Matthew Hobbs	Jean-Paul Skoczylas
	Karthik Bonkur	Salman Khan
	Cathy Watson	

Estate Management Scheme Group

Constitution: 9 Members

Ratio 2:4:3

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Julie Cragg	Jill Weston	Gemma Moore
Barbara Fitzsimon	Alan Chesterman (VC)	Simon Goldwater
	Margaret Birleson	Tony Skottowe (C)
	Lynn Chesterman	

Note

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(VC) Denotes Vice Chair

NON-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES 2024/25

Member Development Steering Group

Constitution: 4 Members

Ratio 1:2:1

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Tony Kingsbury	Kieran Thorpe (C)	Michal Siewniak
	James Broach	

Constitution Review Group

Constitution: 7 Members

Ratio 2:3:2

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Jonathan Boulton	Max Holloway (C)	Salman Khan (VC)
Tony Kingsbury	Rose Grewal	Paul Zukowskyj
	James Broach	

Officer (Head of Paid) Service Appointment Panel

Constitution: Cabinet Members and Opposition Group Leader(s) (plus one external adviser)

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Tony Kingsbury	Max Holloway (C)	Jane Quinton
	Rose Grewal	Sandreni Bonfante
	James Broach	Gemma Moore
	Kieran Thorpe	

Investigating and Disciplinary Committee

(Note: to include at least one Cabinet Member)

Constitution: 5 Members

Ratio 1:2:2

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Terry Mitchinson	Max Holloway (C)	Frank Marsh
	Rose Grewal	Jane Quinton

Appeal Committee

(Note: to include at least one Cabinet Member)

Constitution: 5 Members

Ratio 1:2:2

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
George Michaelides	Kieran Thorpe	Gemma Moore (C)
	James Broach	Tim Rowse

Note

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NON-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES 2024/25

Independent Panel

Constitution: 2 Independent Members to be determined by the Monitoring Officer as appropriate

Note

(C) Denotes Chair
(VC) Denotes Vice Chair

NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2024/25

	Organisation	Number of Reps	Period of Office	Nominations from Joint Administration	Nominations from Conservative
1.	Citizens Advice Bureau (Welwyn Hatfield)	1	1 year	T Skottowe (LD)	
2.	Digswell Arts Trust	2 (Observers)	1 year	F Marsh (LD) T Skottowe (LD)	J Cragg (C)
3.	Breaks Manor Youth Club	1	1 year	L Crofton (Lab)	B Sarson (C)
4.	Hatfield and District Age Concern	1	1 year	C Watson (Lab)	
5.	Haldens Residents and Community Association	1	1 year	A Scott (Lab)	
6.	Hertfordshire Groundwork Trust	1	1 year	J Weston (Lab)	J Cragg (C)
7.	Herts and Middx Trust for Nature Conservation Ltd. Stanborough Reedmarsh Nature Reserve	2	1 year	G Moore (LD) R Grewal (Lab)	J Cragg (C)
8.	Jubilee House - Directors	1	1 year		R Trigg (C)
9.	Ludwick Family Club Management Committee	2	1 year	M Holloway (Lab) K Gardener (Lab)	

**NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS OF
REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES
2024/25**

10.	St.John's Youth Centre	1	1 year	A Nix (LD)	
11.	Welwyn Hatfield Community and Voluntary Service	1	1 year	M Siewniak (LD)	B Fitzsimon (C)
12.	Women's Resource Centre - Management Committee	1 (Female Member)	1 year	L Musk (Lab)	
13.	Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee	1 (Not a member of the District/Borough Council Member Executive; is a member of one of your Borough Council scrutiny committees; not a staff member of Hertfordshire County Council; Not a staff member or board member of any Hertfordshire Health Trust.)	1 year	L Musk (Lab)	B Sarson (C)
14.	Welwyn Hatfield Women's Refuge	1 (Female Member)	1 year	G Moore (LD)	J Cragg (C)
15.	Ellenbrook Park Trust	1	1 year	R Grewal (Lab)	

NB The Council is currently carrying out a review of the School Governing Bodies and the nominations will be deferred until after the review is completed.

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Name	Group	Actual	Possible	%
Cllr M Birleson	Labour	16	17	94%
Cllr J Bond	Conservative	4	7	57%
Cllr S Bonfante	Liberal Democrat	25	25	100%
Cllr J Boulton	Conservative	14	18	78%
Cllr S Boulton	Conservative	10	13	77%
Cllr J Broach	Labour	22	25	88%
Cllr L Chesterman	Labour	20	22	91%
Cllr J Cragg	Conservative	11	12	92%
Cllr L Crofton	Labour	12	12	100%
Cllr G Ganney	Conservative	4	7	57%
Cllr H Goldwater	Liberal Democrat	12	15	80%
Cllr S Goldwater	Liberal Democrat	15	18	83%
Cllr R Grewal	Labour	22	26	85%
Cllr A Hellyer	Conservative	25	25	100%
Cllr M Holloway	Labour	16	18	89%
Cllr D Jones	Liberal Democrat	23	23	100%
Cllr S Kasumu	Conservative	17	19	89%
Cllr T Kingsbury	Conservative	16	17	94%
Cllr J Lake	Conservative	7	12	58%
Cllr R Lass	Conservative	14	22	64%
Cllr F Marsh	Liberal Democrat	10	14	71%
Cllr S McNamara	Conservative	10	12	83%
Cllr G Michaelides	Conservative	17	19	89%
Cllr T Mitchinson	Conservative	9	12	75%
Cllr G Moore	Liberal Democrat	16	16	100%
Cllr L Musk	Labour	18	19	95%
Cllr A Nix	Liberal Democrat	16	16	100%
Cllr N Pace	Conservative	8	13	62%
Cllr D Panter	Liberal Democrat	23	23	100%
Cllr R Platt	Liberal Democrat	19	19	100%
Cllr J Quinton	Liberal Democrat	17	18	94%
Cllr T Rowse	Liberal Democrat	16	18	89%
Cllr B Sarson	Conservative	13	16	81%
Cllr A Scott	Labour	10	11	91%
Cllr P Shah	Labour	7	7	100%
Cllr M Siewniak	Liberal Democrat	15	16	94%
Cllr J Skoczylas	Liberal Democrat	16	18	89%
Cllr P Smith	Conservative	7	8	88%
Cllr C Stanbury	Conservative	17	19	89%
Cllr F Thomson	Conservative	16	18	89%
Cllr K Thorpe	Labour	18	19	95%
Cllr S Thusu	Conservative	11	19	58%

Cllr S Tunstall	Conservative	16	18	89%
Name	Group	Actual	Possible	%
Cllr R Trigg	Conservative	18	23	78%
Cllr F Wachuku	Conservative	10	11	91%
Cllr C Watson	Labour	16	19	84%
Cllr J Weston	Labour	16	17	94%
Cllr P Zukowskyj	Liberal Democrat	28	31	90%

This table presents information on our key committee meetings but excludes meetings of cross-party working groups. Details of individual meeting attendance can be accessed for each councillor using the following link:

<https://democracy.welhat.gov.uk/mgUserAttendanceSummary.aspx?XXR=0&DR=05%2f05%2f2023-01%2f05%2f2024&ACT=Go>