

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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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.