

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL – 3 FEBRUARY 2025
REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY & CABINET PORTFOLIO UPDATE

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following a review by officers, the purpose of this report is to update Members on the political proportionality of Member appointments to Committees in light of changes in membership of the Conservative Group as of the 10th January 2025.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the review of political proportionality of Member appointments to Committees be noted and the allocation of seats be as set out in Schedule 1 to this report.

3 Explanation

Political Proportionality

- 3.1 It was necessary to review the political proportionality of Member appointments to Committees following the changes to membership of the Conservative Group.
- 3.2 In May 2024 the Conservative Group's proportion of seats across all Committees was 25% based on 12 group Members. As a result of a Conservative Member becoming an Independent Member on 10th January 2025, the proportion of Conservative seats across all Committees is now 22.92% based on 11 group Members.
- 3.3 Based on the proportions as set out in paragraph 3.2, the recommendation in this report reflects no change to the allocation of seats on Committees in May 2024. The current allocation of seats on Committees remains proportionate to each political group's membership of the Council.
- 3.4 The Council has a legal duty to secure the balance of the different political groups on the Council's Committees.

Cabinet Portfolio update

- 3.5 The Cabinet Portfolio was recently updated at Special Cabinet on 21 January 2025. The changes are set out below for information.
- 3.5.1 In addition to the current responsibilities, the Leader is also responsible for Estates, Economic Development and Business Centres.
- 3.5.2 The Resources Portfolio has been renamed as Finance. It includes Revenues and Benefits, Internal Audit and Fraud, procurement and finance.
- 3.6 Details of the portfolios can be found on the Council's website: [The Cabinet – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council](#)

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 The Council's email distribution lists and website have been updated to reflect the change in political groups.

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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Schedule 1





Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council membership

Seats on Council	May 2024		Jan 2025	
Conservative	12	25%	11	22.92%
Liberal Democrats	16	33.33%	16	33.33%
Labour	20	41.67%	20	41.67%
Independent		0%	1	2.08%
TOTAL	48	100%	48	100%

Committee Proportionality Ratios

Committee	May 2024 Seats	May 2024 Ratio	Feb 2025 Seats	Feb 2025 Ratio
Estates Management Appeals Panel	9	2:3:4	9	2:3:4:0
Audit Committee	5	1:2:2	5	1:2:2:0
Cabinet Housing Panel	12	3:4:5	12	3:4:5:0
Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel	12	3:4:5	12	3:4:5:0
Grants Board	9	2:3:4	9	2:3:4:0
Community Cabinet Panel	7	2:2:3	7	2:2:3:0
Climate Biodiversity Cabinet Panel	7	2:2:3	7	2:2:3:0
Overview and Scrutiny	12	3:4:5	12	3:4:5:0
Development Management	12	3:4:5	12	3:4:5:0
Licensing	12	3:4:5	12	3:4:5:0

Key:

Conservative	
Liberal Democrat	
Labour	
Independent	

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.