

**Teignbridge District Council
Annual Council
20 May 2025
Part i**

**Committee Appointments and Political Balance – Local
Government and Housing Act 1989**

Purpose of Report

To seek approval of the seat allocations detailed at paragraph 3.1 with effect from 20 May 2025.

Recommendation(s)

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the seat allocations as set out at paragraph 3.1.
2. Appoint councillors to the committees and positions as circulated at the meeting.
3. Require Group Leaders to advise the Democratic Services Team Leader of any changes during the current administration within 24 hours of the change occurring.
4. Give effect to the appointment of individual members as proposed by the Group Leaders.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Director of Corporate Services

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Legal Implications

The purpose of this report is to comply with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which requires the allocation of seats on committees in accordance with the level of representation of political groups on the Council as a whole.

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a duty on the Council to review the representation of political groups on its committees where the members of the Council are split into different political groups. A council is deemed to be split into different political groups where there is at least one such group on the Council. There is a particular duty to conduct this review at the Annual General Meeting or as soon as practicable after that.

For political balance, a group is required to have at least two members in order to be formally constituted as a political group.

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out how committees must be constituted when the Council is divided into one or more political groups. The Council must give effect, as far as reasonably practicable, to the following four principles in constituting its committees or sub-committees:

- (a) that not all of the seats on any committee are allocated to the same political group;
- (b) that if a political group has a majority on the Council, it must have a majority of seats on all committees;
- (c) that, subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats allocated to a political group across all the committees must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership; and
- (d) that, subject to (a) to (c) above, the number of seats allocated to a political group on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.

The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended) make provision for securing the political balance on councils and their committees and for determining the voting rights of members of certain committees

Once the allocations have been agreed, the appointment of individual members must be given effect in accordance with the wishes of the relevant Group as expressed through the Group's Leader / Deputy Leader.

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Risk Assessment

Failure to allocate seats in line with the statutory principles set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 would be in breach of statutory requirements and may result in legal challenge.

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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

There are no Environmental/Climate Change Implications arising out of this report.

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Appendices/Background Papers

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups_ Regulations 1990
Local Government and Housing Act 1990

1. Introduction

Following the receipt of Political Group changes April 2025 and the result of the by-election on 1 May 2025, the allocation of seats in the table below reflects the revised number in the Independent group (10) and the two individual members who are not in a political group.

The membership of the political groups on the Council is as follows:-.

Liberal Democrat Group	25 Seats
Conservative Group	10 Seats
Independent Group	10 Seats
1 Independent (no seat)	
1 Reform (no seat)	
Total Seats to be allocated	45 Seats

The various groups comprise the following Members:

Liberal Democrat Councillors (25)
Buscombe
Cox
Dawson
Farrand-Rogers
Foden
Goodman-Bradbury
Hayes
Henderson
Hook
Jackman
James
Keeling
Major
Morgan
Nutley
Nuttall
Palethorpe
C Parker
Parrott
Rollason
Sanders

Swain
G Taylor
Williams
Wrigley
Conservative Councillors (10)
Atkins
Bullivant
Hall
Lake
Peart
Purser
Rogers
Smith
Thorne
Webster
Independent Group Councillors (10)
Bradford
Clarance
Gearon
P Parker
Radford
Ryan
J Taylor
Daws
Mullone
MacGregor
Independent (1)
Steemson
Reform (1)
Horner

2. Committees

2.1 The committees which are subject to political balance requirements currently comprise:

Committee	No. of Members on the committee
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13
Planning Committee	11
Licensing & Regulatory Committee	11
Audit Scrutiny Committee	8

Standards Committee	6
Strata Scrutiny	3

2.2 The committees which are not subject to political balance requirements:

Name of body other than ordinary committee	No. of Members on the committee
Procedures Committee	<p>Membership:</p> <p>(a) The Chair of Council (who will Chair the Committee);</p> <p>(b) All Group Leaders;</p> <p>(c) Two additional members from each Group (who are appointed at Annual Council) provided that the Group comprises 10% or more of the Council full membership</p>

3. Allocations of seats and nominations

3.1 Allocations to committees subject to political balance requirements will be:-

Committee	Total Seats	Lib Dems	Cons	Independent Group	Notes
Overview & Scrutiny	13	7	3	3	
Planning	11	6	2	3 #	# Year 1
Licensing & Regulatory	11	6	3 #	2	# Year 1
Standards	6	4	1	1	
Audit Scrutiny Committee	8	4	2	2	
Strata Scrutiny	3	1	1	1	
Total	52	28	12	12	

The proposal is based on the current numbers and distribution of members across political groups. In Year 2, The Conservatives will have 3 places on Planning and 2

on Licencing and the Independent Group will have 2 places on Planning and 3 on Licencing. Should there be any changes in future to the numbers and distribution of members across political groups, the places will be recalculated as appropriate and will supersede this arrangement.