

Teignbridge District Council
Full Council
14 January 2024
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 14 January 2025.

Recommendation(s)

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the seat allocations as set out at paragraph 3.1.
2. Require Group Leaders to advise the Democratic Services Team Leader of their group membership to Committees by 4pm 16 January 2025, and of any changes during the current administration within 24 hours of the change occurring.
3. 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.
Head of Corporate Services and Chief Finance Officer
martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk

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.

Paul Woodhead
Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Email: paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk

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.

Paul Woodhead
Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Email: paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk

Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

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

Paul Woodhead
Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Email: paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk

Report Author

Paul Woodhead
 Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
 Email: paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk

Appendices/Background Papers

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

1. Introduction

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

Liberal Democrat Group	25 Seats
Conservative Group	10 Seats
Independent Group	9 Seats
Non-aligned Independent members	3 Seats
Total Seats	47 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 (9)
Bradford
Clarance
Gearon
Jeffries
P Parker
Radford
Ryan
Steemson
J Taylor
Non- Aligned Councillors (3)
Daws
Mullone
MacGregor

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	20
Planning Committee	17
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	Membership:

	(a) The Chair of Council (who will Chair the Committee); (b) All Group Leaders; (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
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3. Allocations of seats and nominations

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

Committee	Total Seats	Lib Dems	Cons	Ind
Overview & Scrutiny	20	11	5	4
Planning	17	10	4	3
Licensing & Regulatory	11	6	3	2
Audit Scrutiny Committee	8	5	1	2
Standards	6	4	1	1
Strata Scrutiny	3	1	1	1
Total	65	37	15	13

3.2 Each political group Leader has been asked to provide their group's allocations for the committees. The nominations will be circulated prior to the meeting if available.