

Teignbridge District Council
Full Council
Tuesday 19th May 2026
Part I

Political Balance and Committee Seat Allocation

Purpose of Report

In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to seek approval of the seat allocations detailed in Appendix 1 with effect from Tuesday 19th May 2026.

Recommendation(s)

The Council RESOLVES to:

1. Approve the Committee seat allocations as set out in the Appendix.
2. Give effect to the appointment of individual members as proposed by the Group Leaders.
3. Asks Group Leaders to advise the Democratic Services Manager of any changes required within 24 hours of the change occurring.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Gordon Bryant – Head of Financial Services and Audit
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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.

Charlie Fisher - Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
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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.

Charlie Fisher - Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

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

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Executive Member

Councillor Richard Keeling – Leader

1. Introduction/background

The Council is asked to affirm the allocation of seats to ensure the Council remains compliant with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The current political composition of the Council's groups is as follows:

Liberal Democrat Group	Independent Group	Conservative Group	Unaligned or no group	Vacant
24	10	9	3	1
51.06%	21.28%	19.15%	6.38%	2.13%

The various groups comprise the following Members:

Liberal Democrat Group (24)	Independent Group (10)	Conservative Group (9)	Unaligned or No Group (3)	Vacant (1)
Buscombe	Bradford	Atkins	Dawson	Dawlish South West
Cox	Clarance	Bullivant	Horner	
Farrand-Rogers	Gearon	Hall	Steemson	
Foden	P Parker	Peart		
Goodman-Bradbury	Radford	Purser		
Hayes	Ryan	Rogers		
Henderson	J Taylor	M Smith		
Hook	Daws	Thorne		
Jackman	Mullone	Webster		
Keeling	Macgregor			
Major				
Morgan				
Nutley				
Nuttall				
Palethorpe				
C Parker				
Parrott				
Rollason				
Sanders				
K Smith				
Swain				
G Taylor				
Williams				
Wrigley				

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

Committee	No. of Members
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13
Planning Committee	11
Licensing & Regulatory Committee	11
Audit Committee	8
Governance Committee	6

The Committees and/or Working Groups which are not subject to political balance requirements currently comprise:

Committee / Working Group	No. of Members
Appointments and Remuneration Committee	4
Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee	3
Strata Joint Executive Committee	1
Local Plan Working Group	9

The numbers of seats allocate to each group for politically balanced committees is as follows:

Committee	No. of Members on the committee	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent Group	Conservative Group	Unallocated Seats
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13	7	3	2	1
Planning Committee	11	6	2	2	1
Licensing & Regulatory Committee	11	6	2	2	1
Audit Committee	8	5	2	1	
Governance Committee	6	4	1	1	
Total	49	28	10	8	3
%		57.1%	20.4%	16.3%	6.1%

Appendix - Committee Seat Allocations

Politically balanced Committees:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (13 Seats)

Liberal Democrat Group (7 Seats)	Independent Group (3 Seats)	Conservative Group (2 Seats)	Unallocated Seat (1)
1. Cllr Cox	1. Cllr J Taylor	1. Cllr Bullivant (Chair)	1. Cllr Steemson
2. Cllr Hayes	2. Cllr Macgregor	2. Cllr Thorne (Vice-Chair)	
3. Cllr Major	3. Cllr Ryan		
4. Cllr C Parker			
5. Cllr Rollason			
6. Cllr Swain			
7. Cllr Williams			

Planning Committee (11 Seats)

Liberal Democrat Group (6 Seats)	Independent Group (2 Seats)	Conservative Group (2 Seats)	Unallocated Seat (1)
1. Cllr Cox	1. Cllr Bradford	1. Cllr Hall	1. Cllr Horner
2. Cllr Goodman Bradbury (Vice Chair)	2. Cllr P Parker	2. Cllr Bullivant	
3. Cllr Palethorpe			
4. Cllr Sanders			
5. Cllr K Smith			
6. Cllr Williams (Chair)			
Substitutes (up to 3 per Group)			
Cllr Hook	Cllr Clarence	Cllr Atkins	
Cllr Parrott	Cllr J Taylor		
Cllr Nutley	Cllr Macgregor		

Licensing and Regulatory Committee (11 Seats)

Liberal Democrat Group (6 Seats)	Independent Group (2 seats)	Conservative Group (2 Seats)	Unallocated Seat (1)
1. Cllr Foden	1. Cllr Bradford	1. Cllr Peart	1. Cllr Horner
2. Cllr Goodman-Bradbury	2. Cllr Gearon	2. Cllr Atkins	
3. Cllr Hayes (Chair)			
4. Cllr Henderson			
5. Cllr Jackman			
6. Cllr Rollason (Vice Chair)			

Audit Committee (8 Seats)

Liberal Democrat Group (5 Seats)	Independent Group (2 Seats)	Conservative Group (1 Seat)	Independent - No Group
1. Cllr Morgan (Chair)	1. Cllr Clarence	1. Cllr Purser	1. Cllr Steemson (Vice Chair) (Liberal Democrat Place)
2. Cllr Jackman	2. Cllr Ryan		
3. Cllr K Smith			
4. Cllr Swain			
5. Place given to Cllr Steemson			
Independent Member (non-voting):			
1. Mr P Dodd			

Governance Committee (6 Seats)

Liberal Democrat Group (4 Seats)	Independent Group (1 Seat)	Conservative Group (1 Seat)
1. Cllr Henderson (Vice Chair)	1. Cllr Clarence	1. Cllr Bullivant (Chair)
2. Cllr Palethorpe		
3. Cllr Nutley		
4. Cllr Nuttall		

Independent Persons (non-voting):

1. Mrs Hazel Elliott
2. Ms Sandra Genender
3. Dr Geraldine Sharp

Committees not politically balanced:

Appointments and Remuneration Committee (4 Seats)

Membership determined by the Constitution

Liberal Democrat Group (2 Seats)	Independent Group (1 Seat)	Conservative Group (1 Seat)
1. Leader of the Council – Cllr Keeling (Chair)	1. Group Leader – Cllr Clarence	1. Group Leader – Cllr Bullivant
2. Executive Member for Corporate Resources – Cllr Parrott		

Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee (3 Seats)

Liberal Democrat Group (1 Seat)	Independent Group (1 Seat)	Conservative Group (1 Seat)
1. Cllr K Smith	1. Cllr Radford	1. Cllr Rogers

Strata Joint Executive Committee (1 Seats)

Liberal Democrat Group (1 Seat)	Independent Group (0 seats)	Conservative Group (0 seats)
1. Cllr Palethorpe		

Working Groups:

Local Plan Working Group (9 Seats)

Liberal Democrat Group (5 Seats)	Independent Group (2 Seats)	Conservative Group (2 Seats)
1. Executive Member for Planning – Cllr G Taylor	1. Cllr Macgregor (Nominated by Group Leader)	1. Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Cllr Bullivant

2. Executive Member for Housing and Homelessness- Cllr Buscombe	2. VACANT	2. VACANT
3. Chair of Planning Committee - Cllr Williams		
4. Executive Member for Environment - Cllr Hook (Nominated by Group Leader)		
5. Executive Member for Neighbourhoods - Cllr Sanders (Nominated by Group Leader)		