

**Report to: Council, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Report of: Monitoring Officer**

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**Subject: REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES 2023/24**

## **1. Recommendation**

**1.1 That the Council agrees the allocation of seats between Political Groups, as set out in Appendix 1, to take effect from the date of the Council meeting.**

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The City Council has a duty to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups to give effect, as far as reasonably practicable, to the principles of political balance across Political Groups, as set out in the relevant legislation. A Political Group, as defined in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, must contain at least two Members. The Council has four Political Groups.
- 2.2 Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Council must adhere to the following principles when allocating seats to Political Groups:
- (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same Political Group;
  - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular Political Group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership;
  - (c) that subject to the above two principles, the number of seats on the total of all the committees of the Council allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the Full Council; and
  - (d) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each committee of the Council allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the Full Council.
- 2.3 Under the legislation, the Council can agree to adopt an alternative allocation of seats, which is not in accordance with the political balance principles set out above, but only if no member of the Council votes against this, and only if proper notice of the proposals has been given on the Council agenda.
- ## **3. Current position**
- 3.1 Following the tragic death of Cllr Andy Roberts, a by-election was held for the seat of Warndon Parish South on 19 October. Cllr Katie Collier was duly elected for the Green Party.

3.2 The Council's political balance is now as follows:

**Table 1**

Political Group	Number of councillors elected	% allocation share of seats
Labour	13	37.1
Green	11	31.4
Conservative	7	20.0
Liberal Democrats	4	11.4

3.3 The allocation of seats to give effect to this new political balance has been discussed with Group Leaders. The proposals set out in **Appendix 1** reflect those discussions and comply with the legal principles set out in section 2.2 above.

**Ward(s):** All  
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**Background Papers:** None