

Constitution of Committees and the Allocation of Seats to Political Parties

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Service Area:	Legal and Governance
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Electoral Divisions Affected	All
Key Decision?	Non Key Decision
Cabinet Forward Plan	Not Applicable
Report considered by	Council – 16 July 2026

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. A recent change in group membership as a result of Councillors Andy Boddington and Chris Naylor leaving the Liberal Democrat Group requires amendments to the distribution of seats on committees. The report also deals with other appointments.

2. Recommendations

Council is asked to

- 2.1. Agree the composition and revised allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the remainder of the 2026/27 as detailed in the report.

- 2.2. Note the following changes to committee membership:

Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Gary Groves to replace Councillor Ben Jephcott as a Member of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Ben Jephcott to replace Councillor Gary Groves as a Substitute Member of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Beverley Waite to replace Councillor Jon Tandy as a Member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Chris Naylor to replace Councillor Andy Boddington as a Member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Jon Tandy to replace Councillor Jeremy Blandford as a Substitute Member of the Southern Planning Committee

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Caroline Bagnall to replace Councillor Rosemary Dartnall as a Member of the Northern Planning Committee

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Viv Parry to replace Councillor Rhys Gratton as a Member of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Rhys Gratton to replace Councillor Duncan Borrowman as a Substitute Member of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3. Background

- 3.1 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review the representation of each political group on committees, panels etc. at each annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. The regulations require that all Scrutiny, Standing and Regulatory Committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places. Subject to that overriding requirement, each committee must also be politically balanced, as far as it is reasonably practicable.
- 3.2 The Executive (Cabinet) is not subject to the political balance rules.
- 3.3 Advisory Committees and other ad hoc bodies and groups are not subject to the political balance rules either, but traditionally political proportionality has been applied to them outside the overall aggregate balance referred to in paragraph 2.1 above.
- 3.4 The Council has been advised that Councillors Andy Boddington and Chris Naylor are no longer members of the Liberal Democrat Group and will continue as Non Affiliated Independent Members. Accordingly, it is necessary to review the

membership of committees to reflect this change in the relative size of the political groups.

- 3.5 In order to accurately reflect the political balance of the authority, and to comply with the principles set out within the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it is recommended that the Liberal Democrat Group relinquishes a seat on each of the Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Strategic Licensing Committee. These seats will be allocated to Councillor Naylor and Councillor Boddington respectively.
- 3.6 In addition, since the last meeting of the Council the existing committee memberships have changed as set out in the recommendations.

4. Summary of Main Proposals

- 4.1. The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the remainder of the coming year. In accordance with the Political Balance Rules, the revised maximum number of seats available to each of the groups will be:

Group Name	Seats per Group
Liberal Democrat	63 (-2)
Reform	23
Conservative	11
Green and Progressive Independent	8
Labour	6
Non Affiliated Independent (Edmunds)	1
Non Affiliated Independent (Boddington)	1 (+1)
Non Affiliated Independent (Naylor)	1 (+1)
Total	114

- 4.2. The proportionate allocation of seats to the political groups across all committees is set out in Appendix A.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1. The Council must, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, ensure that the membership of committees and related bodies is proportionate to individual group membership.
- 5.2. If the Council does not allocate seats proportionately, it will not be acting in accordance with the Act.

6. Key risks and Opportunities

- 6.1. The recommendations in this report, if approved, will have no impact on Children and Vulnerable Adults, Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, and other Consultation

7. Council Priorities

- 7.1. Compliance with its legislative requirements is key to supporting the Council Priorities ensuring good.

8. Financial Implications

8.1. The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious financial implications.

9. Legal and HR implications

9.1. The Council is obliged to allocate seats in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

10. Electoral Division Implications

10.1. The proposals in this report do not impact on specific electoral divisions

11. Health, Social (including “Child Friendly Shropshire”) and Economic Implications

11.1. There are no Health, Social or Economic implications arising from this report

12. Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1. There are no equality and diversity implications associated with this report

13. Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

13.1. There are no climate change, biodiversity or environmental implications associated with this report.

14. Background Papers

14.1. None

15. Appendices

Appendix A - Allocation of Seats to Political Groups