

Appointments to Committees 2022/23

For Annual Council on 25 May 2022

Summary

Lead Member:

Lead Director: Lee Colyer, Director of Finance, Policy and Development

Head of Service: Jane Clarke, Head of Policy and Governance

Report Author: Jane Clarke, Head of Policy and Governance

Classification: Public document (non-exempt)

Wards Affected: All

Approval Timetable	Date
Political Groups	May 2022
Annual Council	25 May 2022

Recommendations

Officer recommendations as supported by political Group Leaders:

1. That the allocation of seats to Committees (political balance), as set out at appendix A tabled at the meeting, be approved.
2. That the appointments to the Committees, as set out at appendix B tabled at the meeting, be approved.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This report sets out the process for the appointment of Councillors to Committees in accordance with political balance legislation.

2. Political Balance

- 2.1 As a result of the Borough Elections held on 5 May 2022 the political balance of the Council is as follows:

Political Party	Number of seats on the Council	Proportion expressed as a percentage
Liberal Democrats	16	33.33%
Conservative	13	27.08%
Tunbridge Wells Alliance	9	18.75%
Labour	7	14.58%
Independent Members (no political Group)	3	6.25%
Totals	48	99.99%

- 2.2 The political balance legislation requires that Committees are established to reflect the overall political balance of the Council. The Council must allocate seats on Committees and other prescribed bodies so as to give effect to the political balance rules.
- 2.3 Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out four rules, and requires authorities to apply them in descending order of priority:
- 1) When some or all of the members of an authority have formed into two or more political groups, then no committee may comprise just members from one political group;
 - 2) Where a majority of members of the Council are members of one political group, that political group must have a majority of the seats on each Committee;
 - 3) Without being inconsistent with the first two rules, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all the committees taken together be as near as possible proportionate to their strength on the Council; and

- 4) So far as is consistent with rules 1-3, each political party must be allocated that number of seats on each committee taken individually as is proportionate to their strength on the Council
- 2.1 The calculation of political balance is a statutory process and not subject to approval. However, the rounding applied to actual seats is for agreement by the Council.
- 2.2 In order for the Council to conduct its business and for the Committees to function, formal appointments need to be made to each Committee, according to the allocation of seats set out and with a membership determined by each political Group Leader.
- 2.3 Individual appointees may be substituted provided the political balance is maintained.

3. Consultation on Options

- 3.1 As this is an internal procedure, no consultation is required.

4. Implementation

- 4.1 The decisions of Annual Council will come into effect immediately, and the results will be published to the Council's website.

5. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Calculation of Political Balance
- Appendix B: Appointment to Committees

