

**Surrey Heath Borough Council**  
**Council**  
**28 June 2023**

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**Review of Political Proportionality and Membership of Committees**

**Head of Service** Gavin Ramtohal - Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
**Report Author:** Rachel Whillis – Democratic Services Manager  
**Wards Affected:** n/a

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**Summary and purpose**

To review political proportionality following the rescheduled Frimley Green election and revise the membership of committees accordingly.

**Recommendation**

The Council is advised to RESOLVE that

- (i) the revised the scheme of proportionality as set out at Annex A to the report, be adopted for the remainder 2023/24; and
- (ii) the revisions to the membership of the Committees, as set out at Annex B to this report, be agreed.

**1. Background and Supporting Information**

- 1.1 The Council is asked to review the proportional political allocation of places on committees and to adopt a revised scheme of proportionality for the 2023/24 municipal year to reflect the change to the Council's membership following the rescheduled Frimley Green election on 15 June 2023.
- 1.2 By law, seats on committees must be allocated in proportion to the political composition of the Council. Only with no councillor voting against such a decision, can an authority decide that it wishes to adopt an arrangement other than a proportional one.
- 1.3 Four groups have been formed: the Liberal Democrats Group, the Conservative Group, the Community Group, and the Labour Group. The number of seats of each group on the Council and the resulting percentages are as follows:

<u>Liberal Democrats</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Labour</u>
24	6	3	2
68.57%	17.14%	8.57%	5.71%

- 1.4 In determining the allocation of seats on committees, the proportion that each political group forms of the total membership of the Council is applied to the total number of elected councillor seats on each committee. Fractional entitlements of less than one half are rounded down and entitlements of one half or more are rounded up. So that this process of rounding does not result in disproportionate advantage to one political group, the aggregate membership of all the committees must also be in line with the proportions on the Council.

## **2. Proposal and Alternative Options**

- 2.1 The Council has no option but to achieve political proportionality. Where it is not possible to achieve absolute proportionality for each committee, the scheme agreed must achieve overall proportionality across all the committees of the Council.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the Council adopts the revised scheme of proportionality as set out at Annex A to this report and agrees any consequential changes to the membership of committees, having regard to the nominations of the relevant group leaders. This scheme achieves the required balance between the four political groups on the Council.

## **3. Resource Implications**

- 3.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

## **4. Legal and Governance Issues**

- 4.1 As set out above.

## **5. Monitoring Officer Comments**

- 5.1 No matters arising.

**Annexes:** Annex A – Scheme of Proportionality

Annex B: - Revised memberships of committees and other bodies of the Council (to follow)

**Background Papers:** None

## Annex A - Scheme of Proportionality

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Planning Applications	11	2	1	1	15
Licensing	9	2	1	1	13
Performance & Finance	9	2	1	1	13
External Partnerships	9	2	1	1	13
Audit & Standards	4	2	1	0	7
Employment	6	2	1	0	9
<b>Total seats</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>70</b>
% of Committee seats	68.57%	17.14%	8.57%	5.71%	100%
% of Council membership	68.57%	17.14%	8.57%	5.71%	100%