

Surrey Heath Borough Council
Council
20 April 2022

**Committee Memberships and Review of Political
Proportionality**

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

Summary and purpose

To review the political proportionality for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year and agree the changes to committee memberships, on the nomination of the relevant group leaders.

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 2021/22; and
- (ii) the revisions to the membership of the Committees, as advised by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Group Leaders, 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 2021/22 municipal year to reflect the change to the Council's membership following the Bisley & West End by-election on 14 April 2022.
- 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 Five groups have been formed: the Conservative Group, the Liberal Democrats Group, the Community Group, the Camberley Independents Group, and the Green Group. Following the Bisley & West End by-election, the number of seats of each group on the Council and the resulting percentages are as follows:

<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrats</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Camberley Independents</u>	<u>Green</u>
17	9	5	2	2
48.57%	25.71%	14.29%	5.71%	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.
- 1.5 It is proposed to revise the allocation of seats for the Planning Applications Committee and Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee, with the Liberal Democrats Group and the Conservative Group respectively increasing and decreasing by one seat on each committee.
- 1.6 The Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group has advised that Cllr Liz Noble will fill the Group's vacancies on Planning Applications Committee and Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee. Changes to the Conservative Group positions will be advised at the meeting.

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 Members can choose to amend the allocation of committee seats to groups that is proposed in Annex A. However, the scheme proposed is considered to achieve the best proportionality for each committee, along with achieving overall proportionality across all the committees of the Council.

3. Resource Implications

- 3.1 No matters arising.

4. Legal and Governance Issues

- 4.1 As set out above.

5. Monitoring Officer Comments

- 5.1 No matters arising.

Annexes

Annex A – Revised Scheme of Proportionality

Background Papers

None

Annex A - Scheme of Proportionality

Committee	Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Community	Green	Camberley Independents	TOTAL
Planning Applications	7	4	2	1	1	15
Licensing	6	3	2	1	1	13
Performance & Finance	6	4	2	1	0	13
External Partnerships	7	3	2	0	1	13
Audit & Standards	3	2	1	0	1	7
Employment	5	2	1	1	0	9
Total seats	34	18	10	4	4	70
% of Committee seats	48.57%	25.71%	14.29%	5.71%	5.71%	100%
% of Council membership	48.57%	25.71%	14.29%	5.71%	5.71%	100%