

Full Council

21 May 2024



Report of: Tim O’Gara, Director – Legal and Democratic Services

Title: **Allocation of Committee Seats and Appointment of Members to Serve on Committees 2024/25**

Ward: Citywide

Recommendation

1. To review and approve the allocation of seats on committees in accordance with the statutory requirements concerning political balance and to approve the appointment of Members (and substitutes) to serve on committees (full recommendations set out at the end of this report).
2. To appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs to the Committees as proposed.

Summary

As per above recommendation.

The significant issues in the report are:

As set out in the main report.



Policy

1. Not applicable

Consultation

2. **Internal**
Party Group Whips
3. **External**
Not applicable

Context

4. See proposal below.

Background / Proposal

5. Under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) regulations, the Full Council has a duty to review the representation of different political groups at its annual meeting in respect of bodies to which the section applies (for example, the section applies to the Council's ordinary committees and Scrutiny Commissions). The section does not apply to the statutory Licensing Committee or the Health and Wellbeing Board and so the political balance rules are not applied to these. Section 15 of the Act provides that, in performing this duty, the Council has a duty to make only such determinations as give effect **so far as reasonably practicable** to the following principles:
 - 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 are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership.
 - c. Subject to a. and b. above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of the authority as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
 - d. Subject to a. to c. above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the numbers of that group to the membership of the authority.
6. The current councillor membership of political groups represented on the City Council is set out below and the names of the councillors in each group are set out in Appendix A to this report:

Green group	34 Members
Labour group	20 Members
Liberal Democrat group	8 Members
Conservative group	7 Members

7. For the purposes of calculating the entitlement of each political group to seats on committees, it is proposed that the following be included:
- Adult Social Care Committee
 - Homes and Housing Delivery Committee
 - Public Health and Communities Committee
 - Economy and Skills Committee
 - Strategy and Resources Committee
 - Children and Young people Committee
 - Transport and Connectivity Committee
 - Environment and Sustainability Committee
 - Finance Sub Committee
 - Health Scrutiny Sub Committee
 - Development Control Committee A
 - Development Control Committee B
 - Public Safety and Protection Committee
 - Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee
 - Audit Committee
 - Human Resources Committee
8. Alternative arrangements for appointments to these committees can be approved provided no Member of the Council votes against.
9. Subject to the Full Council appointing the committees as per agenda item 11, and agreeing the sizes of committees described below, the total number of seats on these committees available is 144.
10. The number of Council Members for each political group expressed as a percentage of the total Councillor membership of political groups on the City Council (70) is as follows:

Green	34 Members (% of 70) = 48.57 %
Labour	20 Members (% of 70) = 28.57 %
Liberal Democrat	8 Members (% of 70) = 11.43 %
Conservative	7 Members (% of 70) = 10 %

Following discussion with the Party Group Leaders, the following committee sizes are proposed:

	GREEN	LAB	LD	CON
9 Member Committees:				
Adult Social Care Committee	4	3	1	1
Homes and Housing Delivery Committee	4	3	1	1
Public Health and Communities Committee	4	3	1	1
Economy and Skills Committee	4	3	1	1
Strategy and Resources Committee	4	3	1	1
Children and Young people Committee	4	3	1	1
Transport and Connectivity Committee	4	3	1	1

Environment and Sustainability Committee	4	3	1	1
Development Control Committee A	4	3	1	1
Development Control Committee B	4	3	1	1
Public Safety and Protection Committee	4	3	1	1
Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee	4	3	1	1
Audit Committee	4	3	1	1
Human Resources Committee	4	3	1	1
Health Scrutiny Sub Committee:	4	3	1	1
Finance Sub Committee	4	3	1	1
TOTAL = 144 seats, breaking down as	64	48	16	16
	GREEN	LAB	LD	CON
The % which this distribution gives each party:	44.44%	33.33%	11.11%	11.11%
As compared with the entitlement %	48.57%	28.57%	11.43%	10.00%

11. These totals reflect, as far as is reasonably practicable, the aggregate entitlement of the political groups to committee seats.

Appointments to which political balance do not apply:

12. Licensing Committee:

- The Licensing Committee is established under Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003 and is a standing committee. Any vacancies must be filled by the Full Council – this task is non-delegable, i.e. only Full Council can decide who will serve on the Committee.
- Members continue to serve on the Committee until they either resign or are removed by the Full Council.
- The appointment of Members is a licensing function and, as such, equalities law applies to it, and the Full Council should fill vacancies having due regard to equalities tests and considerations.
- The Council must have a licensing committee of between 10-15 members. As one of the largest licensing authorities in the country, Bristol has established a 15 Member Committee.
- The list of Members proposed to serve on the committee for 2024-2025 will be confirmed at the annual meeting and published as Appendix B to this report.
- The Full Council is asked to enquire if there have been any resignations from the Committee since the date of publication of this report, and having done so, to invite nominations to fill any vacancies. In confirming appointments to the Committee, the Full Council is asked to take full account of equalities duties and considerations, and to note that the political balance rules do not apply.
- Any vacancies that subsequently arise will need to be referred to the next meeting of the Full Council to ensure they are filled promptly, and to ensure that the Council retains the 15 Member Committee it has previously resolved to establish.

13. **Appeals Committee:** The Full Council is asked to determine the membership of the Appeals Committee. It is proposed that, as in previous years, membership of the Appeals Committee should comprise any 3 Members of the Council subject to them having first received the necessary training and not having been involved in the original decision which is the subject of an appeal.

14. Joint Scrutiny and other bodies: The following is proposed:

- **Joint Health Scrutiny Committee** (3 members from Bristol, one from each of the largest 3 political groups).
- **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the purpose of jointly scrutinising the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership** 7 members from Bristol (3 Green; 2 Labour; 1 Liberal Democrat; 1 Conservative).
- **West of England Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (“The WECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee”)** 6 members from Bristol (2 Green; 2 Labour; 1 Liberal Democrat; 1 Conservative;)
- **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Arrangement** comprising of the Constituent Councils of the West of England Combined Authority, and North Somerset Council (“The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Arrangement”) 6 members from Bristol (2 Green; 2 Labour; 1 Liberal Democrat; 1 Conservative;)
- **West of England Combined Authority Audit** 6 members from Bristol (2 Green; 2 Labour; 1 Liberal Democrat; 1 Conservative;)

15. Health and Wellbeing Board: The membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board is prescribed in section 194 of the 2012 Act, as follows:

- a. At least one councillor from the authority nominated by Full Council.
- b. The director of adult social services for the local authority.
- c. The director of children’s services for the local authority.
- d. The director of public health for the local authority.
- e. A representative of the local Healthwatch organisation for the area of the local authority.
- f. A representative of each relevant clinical commissioning group.
- g. Such other persons, or representatives of such other persons, as the local authority thinks appropriate.

Full Council is asked to appoint the respective Chairs of the Adult Social Care, Children and Young People and Public Health and Communities policy committees to serve on the Health and Wellbeing Board, and to appoint one of these as the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Chair Allocation

- 16.** Full Council has the option to appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs to committees. These are listed at Appendix C.

Committee Allocations

- 17.** Full Council is asked to note the Committee Appointments listed at Appendix D.

Substitutes

- 18.** In addition to deciding the allocation of seats to political groups, the Full Council is also required to decide substitution arrangements.

Other Options Considered

Not applicable.

Risk Assessment

Not applicable.

Public Sector Equality Duties

Not applicable.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

As indicated in the report, in determining the allocation of committee seats and the appointment of Members to serve on Committees, the Full Council must comply with the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) regulations.

(Legal advice provided by Tim O’Gara, Director – Legal and Democratic Services)

Financial

(a) Revenue

Not applicable.

(b) Capital

Not applicable.

Land

Not applicable.

Personnel

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Full Council is recommended to:

- 1. Approve the allocation of committee seats as set out above.**
- 2. Approve the allocation of members to fill all of the vacancies on the Licensing Committee. In confirming appointments to the Committee, the Full Council is asked to take full account of equalities duties and considerations, and to note that the political balance rules do not apply.**

- 3. Agree that all Members of Council be appointed to serve on an Appeals Committee comprising of any 3 Members of Council, subject to them having first received the necessary training and not having been involved in the original decision which is the subject of an appeal.**

- 4. Agree that the Council be represented (as per paragraph 14) on the following joint bodies:**
 - **Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**
 - **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the purpose of jointly scrutinising the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership**
 - **West of England Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
 - **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Arrangement comprising of the Constituent Councils of the West of England Combined Authority, the Mayor and North Somerset Council (“The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Arrangement”**
 - **West of England Combined Authority Audit**

- 5. To note the position in relation to the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as per paragraph 15 of the report.**

- 6. To agree that named members will be provided for the Committee memberships by the party group Whips (to be sent to the Monitoring Officer). If named substitutes are not also provided, then any Councillor of the relevant group may attend a meeting as a substitute, other than in the case of:**
 - **a Development Control Committee, where the substitute must be a member of another Development Control Committee (and be appropriately trained).**

Appendices:

Appendix A – Councillor membership of political groups

Appendix B – Chair Allocations for Committee/Commissions

Appendix C – Licensing Committee Membership

Appendix D – Committee Memberships

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None

APPENDIX A

Councillor membership of political groups

Green Group (34)

Councillor Jenny Bartle

Councillor Rob Bryher

Councillor George Calascione

Councillor James Crawford

Councillor Tony Dyer

Councillor Emma Edwards

Councillor Abi Finch

Councillor Martin Fodor

Councillor Lorraine Francis

Councillor Ed Fraser

Councillor Ellie Freeman

Councillor Fi Hance

Councillor Cam Hayward

Councillor Shona Jemphrey

Councillor Cara Lavan

Councillor Heather Mack

Councillor Mohamed Makawi

Councillor Abdul Malik

Councillor Patrick McAllister

Councillor Yassin Mohamud

Councillor Paula O'Rourke

Councillor Barry Parsons

Councillor Ed Plowden

Councillor Guy Poultney

Councillor Serena Ralston

Councillor Izzy Russell

Councillor Ani Stafford-Townsend

Councillor Lisa Stone

Councillor Jerome Thomas

Councillor Christine Townsend

Councillor Sibusiso Tshabalala

Councillor Toby Wells

Councillor David Wilcox

Councillor Tim Wye

Labour Group (20)

Councillor Al Al-Maghrabi

Councillor Don Alexander

Councillor Kerry Bailes

Councillor Kelvin Blake

Councillor Tom Blenkinsop

Councillor Fabian Breckels

Councillor Emily Clarke

Councillor Kye Dudd

Councillor Lisa Durston

Councillor Paul Goggin

Councillor Katja Hornchen

Councillor Ellie King

Councillor Susan Kollar

Councillor Rob Logan

Councillor Louis Martin

Councillor Zoe Peat

Councillor Thomas Renhard

Councillor Timothy Rippington

Councillor Kaz Self

Councillor Kirsty Tait

Liberal Democrat Group (8)

Councillor Andrew Brown

Councillor Jos Clark

Councillor Sarah Classick

Councillor Nicholas Coombes

Councillor Caroline Gooch

Councillor Tim Kent

Councillor Andrew Varney

Councillor Stephen Williams

Conservative Group (7)

Councillor Richard Eddy

Councillor John Goulandris

Councillor Jonathan Hucker

Councillor Henry Michallat

Councillor Graham Morris

Councillor Bador Uddin

Councillor Mark Weston

APPENDIX B**Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs**

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair
Adult Social Care Committee	Cllr Francis	Cllr Blake
Homes and Housing Delivery Committee	Cllr Parsons	Cllr Eddy
Public Health and Communities Committee	Cllr Williams	Cllr Clarke
Economy and Skills Committee	Cllr Brown	Cllr Bartle
Strategy and Resources Committee	Cllr Dyer	Cllr Gooch
Children and Young people Committee	Cllr Townsend	Cllr Hornchen
Transport and Connectivity Committee	Cllr Plowden	Cllr Morris
Environment and Sustainability Committee	Cllr Fodor	Cllr King
Development Control Committee A	Cllr Bryher	Cllr Hornchen
Development Control Committee B	Cllr Alexander	
Public Safety & Protection Committee	Cllr Classick	
Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee	Cllr Goulandris	
Health Sub Committee	Cllr Wye	Cllr Bailes
Finance Sub Committee	Cllr Malik	Cllr Hucker
Audit Committee	Cllr Rippington	Cllr Coombs
Human Resources Committee	Cllr Dudd	
Licensing Committee	Cllr Breckels	

APPENDIX C

Licensing Committee Membership

1. Cllr Breckels (Chair)
2. Cllr Poultney
3. Cllr Russell
4. Cllr Edwards
5. Cllr Hayward
6. Cllr Ralston
7. Cllr Crawford
8. Cllr Hance
9. Cllr Tait
10. Cllr Martin
11. Cllr Goggin
12. Cllr Kollar
13. Cllr Williams
14. Cllr Kent
15. Cllr Eddy

APPENDIX D

POLICY COMMITTEES AND POLICY SUB-COMMITTEES

Adult Social Care	Children and Young People	Economy and Skills	Environment and Sustainability	Homes and Housing Delivery	Public health and Communities
Cllr Francis	Cllr Townsend	Cllr Bartle	Cllr Fodor	Cllr Parsons	Cllr Hance
Cllr Makawi	Cllr Hayward	Cllr O'Rourke	Cllr Crawford	Cllr Stone	Cllr Lavan
Cllr Wye	Cllr Jemphrey	Cllr Wells	Cllr Russell	Cllr Tshabalala	Cllr Malik
Cllr Calascione	Cllr Freeman	Cllr Ralston	Cllr Finch	Cllr Thomas	Cllr Fraser
Cllr Blake	Cllr Hornchen (spoke)	Cllr Breckels	Cllr King (spoke)	Cllr Almagrahbi	Cllr Clarke
Cllr Martin	Cllr Bailes	Cllr Blake	Cllr Tait	Cllr Goggin	Cllr Durston
	Cllr Kollar	Cllr Tom Renhard	Cllr Dudd	Cllr Peat	Cllr Blenkinsop
Cllr Clark	Cllr Classick	Cllr Brown	Cllr Kent	Cllr Clark	Cllr Williams
Cllr Weston	Cllr Michallat	Cllr Weston	Cllr Michallat	Cllr Eddy	Cllr Uddin

Strategy and Resources	Transport and Connectivity
Cllr Dyer	Cllr Plowden
Cllr Mack	Cllr Wilcox
Cllr Malik	Cllr Edwards
Cllr Stafford-Townsend	Cllr Bryer
Cllr Alexander	Cllr Alexander
Cllr Renhard (spoke)	Cllr Self
	Cllr Rippington
Cllr Gooch	Cllr Coombs
Cllr Goulandris	Cllr Morris

Finance sub-Committee	Health scrutiny Sub-committee
Cllr Malik	Cllr Wye
Cllr Mack	Cllr Thomas
Cllr McCallister	Cllr Bartle
Cllr Thomas	Cllr Stafford-Townsend
Cllr Blake (Spoke)	Cllr Bailes
Cllr Logan	Cllr Durston
	Cllr Martin
Cllr Brown	Cllr Gooch
Cllr Hucker	Cllr Morris

REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Development Control Committee A	Development Control Committee B	Public Safety & Protection Committee	Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee
CLlr Bryher	CLlr Poultney	CLlr Malik	CLlr Townsend
CLlr Ralston	CLlr O'Rourke	CLlr Poultney	CLlr Fraser
CLlr Freeman	CLlr Makawi	CLlr Hance	CLlr Finch
CLlr Calscione	CLlr Stone	CLlr Wilcox	CLlr Hayward
CLlr Hornchen	CLlr Alexander	CLlr Clarke	CLlr Almagrahbi
CLlr Peat	CLlr Breckels	CLlr Self	CLlr Vittori-Garman
	CLlr Durston	CLlr Logan	CLlr Self (Spoke)
CLlr Classick	CLlr Gooch	CLlr Classick	CLlr Kent
CLlr Uddin	CLlr Eddy	CLlr Hucker	CLlr Goulandris

OTHER COMMITTEES:

Human Resources Committee	Audit Committee
CLlr Crawford	CLlr Wilcox
CLlr Thomas	CLlr Malik
CLlr O'Rourke	CLlr McAllister
CLlr Stone	CLlr Lavan
CLlr Dudd	CLlr Rippington
CLlr Bailes	CLlr Logan
	CLlr Blenkinsop
CLlr Clark	CLlr Coombs
CLlr Eddy	CLlr Hucker