

26 July 2023		ITEM: 9
Council		
Revised Political Balance		
Wards and communities affected: East Tilbury	Key Decision: Not Applicable	
Report of: Dave Smith, Chief Executive		
Accountable Assistant Director: N/a		
Accountable Director: Asmat Hussain, Interim Director of Law and Governance		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

This report requests the Council confirm the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees following Councillor Sammons becoming an independent councillor on 13 July 2023.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the political balance and allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The political balance of the Council was confirmed at its annual meeting on 24 May 2023 following the local elections. Following Councillor Sammons becoming an independent member for East Tilbury the new political balance of the Council is:

Conservatives: 25
Labour: 19
Independents: 5

New Political proportionality

2.2 Appendix 1 of this report shows the impact of this change of party membership to the political balance. In summary the Conservatives reduce their overall seat entitlement from 46 to 44. These two seats are left

unclaimed through the calculations and are assigned to ungrouped Members. The Labour group is unaffected.

- 2.3 The Conservative group are required to identify two seats they wish to release. Ungrouped Members may wish to claim these seats accordingly.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Full Council have the authority to agree and endorse the allocation of committee seats. The political balance calculations contained in the appendices represent a mathematical and objective way of assigning those seats.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 In the spirit of transparency the Council is encouraged to have sight of any changes to political balance and agree or note them.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken in respect of this report with the leaders of each of the political groups represented on the Council. Their agreement has been obtained to the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees and their respective nominations can be put before Council for approval.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 Appointing members to committees in accordance with the political balance of the Council and associated allocation of seats on committees will enable the Council to properly discharge its functions.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Rosie Hurst**
Interim Senior Management Accountant

There are no direct financial implications related to the change in political balance. The cost of servicing committees will be met through the existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Assie Hussain**
Interim Director of Legal and Governance

The duties on Councils (under sections 15- 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) are to review the representation of different political groups on Committees and, as soon as practicable after such reviews, determine the allocation to different political groups and give effect to allocations. This is so as to ensure that the overall political composition of the Council is, so far as reasonably practicable, reflected in the appointment of Members to Committees and Sub-Committees.

This review has to be done at or as soon as practicable after the annual meeting of full Council. A review should also be done where the overall political balance of the Council changes during the course of the municipal year. Following any change in the overall political balance, the authority is required to undertake a review and consider any implications for representation on Council Committees and Sub-Committees. This would include following a Member(s) stating that he or she wishes to join a political group (reg. 17 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990).

If following a review it's considered that any changes need to be made to Committee and/or Sub-Committee allocations then a report needs to go to full Council setting out the recommended changes.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Lee**
Team Manager – Community Development and Equalities

There are no direct implications for this report.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None.

9. Appendices to the report

There are the following appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Revised Political Balance Calculations – July 2023

Appendix 2 – Political Balance Calculations agreed at Annual Council – May 2023

Report Author:

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Legal Services