

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Monitoring Officer	Report Number: BC/17/36
To: Council	Date of Meeting: 24 April 2018

POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to agree the revised political balance and composition of the Council's committees following Councillor Melanie Barrett's and Councillor Holt's decision to join the Independent Conservative Group.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.2 That the revisions to the appointments to Committees as set out in Appendix 2 to this report be noted.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The approval of the recommendations will ensure compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Significant Business Risk No. 5c – Failure to develop clear governance arrangements that enable the right decisions to be taken that are appropriate for the environment that we are operating in. Key risks are set out below.

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Sufficient members are not appointed and the Committee is inquorate and unable to take decisions.	1 – Highly unlikely	3 - Bad	Early discussions with Group Leaders regarding Committee placements

6. Consultations

- 6.1 Consultations have been undertaken with Group Leaders and other relevant Members.

7. Equality Analysis

- 7.1 Good governance and democratic, sound and transparent decision-making should enable potential inequalities to become apparent and should therefore be more obviously addressed.

8. Shared Service/Partnership Implications

- 8.1 There are no shared service implications.

9. Implications for the Joint Strategic Plan

- 9.1 Good governance and democratic, sound and transparent decision-making support the delivery of the Joint Strategic Plan.

10. Key Information

- 10.1 Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 where a local authority is grouped for Committee composition purposes, the Authority is required to make arrangements to ensure that its Committees share the same political balance as the full Council.

- 10.2 The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 allow ungrouped members to receive committee seats if any are left over once allocations have been made to the political groups in proportion to their membership of the authority. The political groups of Babergh make up 100% of the Council and therefore all of the politically balanced Committee seats go to political groups.

- 10.3 The current Committee structure has 43 available seats which go to political groups.

- 10.4 Following the decision of Councillor Melanie Barrett and Councillor Holt to join the Independent Conservative Group from the Conservative Group, the committee seats need to be adjusted to ensure that the Council's committees share the same political balance as the full Council.

- 10.5 The Council is therefore asked to approve the revised numerical allocation of Committee seats, and the calculation in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as shown in Appendix one to this report. The calculation provides for 43 Committee seats to the various groups as follows:-

Conservative	-	24 seats
Independent	-	8 seats
Independent Conservative	-	6 seats
Liberal Democrats	-	3 seats
Labour	-	2 seats

- 10.6 Further to the proposed amendments to the allocation of committee seats the relevant Group Leaders have notified the Monitoring Officer of alterations to the members appointed to the Committees. The Council is asked to note these appointments as at Appendix two to this report.

11. Appendices

Title	Location
Appendix 1 – Size of Committees and numerical allocation	Attached
Appendix 2 – Alterations to committee appointments	To follow

12. Background Documents

None.

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