

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Annual Council	REPORT NUMBER: BC/21/3
FROM: Monitoring Officer	DATE OF MEETING: 25 May 2021
OFFICER: Janice Robinson, Corporate Manager – Governance and Civic Office	KEY DECISION REF NO. N/A

POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which require a Local Authority to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups at every annual meeting of the Council or as soon as practicable after that meeting.
- 1.2 The report also seeks the Council's approval of the composition of Committees which must be agreed each year at the Annual Council meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix A to this report.
- 2.2 That Committee members be appointed as set out in Appendix B to this report.
- 2.3 That the remaining unallocated Committee seat be allocated to Councillor Owen (Labour not grouped).

3. KEY INFORMATION

Political Composition and Appointments to Committees

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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. Babergh has one ungrouped member of the Council.

The current Committee structure has 35 available seats.

- 3.3 Separate items on the composition of the Suffolk Joint Standards Board and the Shared Revenues Partnership Committee appear elsewhere on the agenda.

3.4 The first step, therefore, is for the Council to approve the numerical allocation of Committee seats, and the calculation in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 is shown in Appendix A to this report. The calculation provides for 35 Committee seats to the various groups as follows:-

- Conservative 15 seats
- Independent 11 seats
- Green Party 5 seats
- Liberal Democrats 3 seats

The Monitoring Officer is recommending that the unallocated seat is apportioned as below:

- Labour (not grouped) 1 seat

4. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

4.1 Strong and effective governance underpins all the key priorities contained within the Corporate Plan.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 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 1990.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 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

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Group Leaders have been consulted on the relevant aspects of this report.

9. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as none of the protected characteristics will be affected by the recommendations within this report.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

11. APPENDICES

Title	Location
A. Numerical allocation of Committee places	To follow
B. Appointments to Committees	To follow

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 None.