

## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>TO:</b> Council	<b>REPORT NUMBER:</b> <b>BC/21/28</b>
<b>FROM:</b> Monitoring Officer	<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b> 2 February 2022
<b>OFFICER:</b> Janice Robinson, Corporate Manager – Governance and Civic Office	<b>KEY DECISION REF NO.</b> N/A

### POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to review the allocation of seats following the creation of the Green Party and Labour Group and as a result of Councillor Maybury joining the Conservative Group from the Independent Party to ensure that the Council complies 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 following any changes.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix A to this report.

#### 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 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 and Labour Group 6 seats
- Liberal Democrats 3 seats

#### **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:

<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>
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	Attached

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

12.1 None.