

REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY – DECEMBER 2022**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

1. The Council formally reviewed the proportional political allocation of places on committees and adopted a scheme of proportionality for the Council year 2022/23 at its Annual General Meeting in May 2022.
2. By law, seats on committees must be allocated in proportion to the political composition of the Council. An authority can only decide that it wishes to adopt an arrangement other than a proportional one if no Member votes against it.
3. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to review committee membership and political representation annually and when notice is received of a change in the size of the political groups.
4. Following the by-election held in the Sunbury Common and Ashford Common Division on 30 November 2022, the Conservative Group now consists of 46 Members (previously 47 Members), and the Liberal Democrat Group now consists of 15 Members (previously 14 Members).
5. In determining the allocation of seats on ordinary committees, the proportion that each political group forms of the total membership of the Council is applied to the total number of elected Member seats on each committee. Generally, fractional entitlements of less than one half are rounded down and entitlements of one half or more are rounded up. So that this process of rounding does not result in advantage to one political group, the aggregate membership of all the ordinary committees must also be in line with the proportions on the County Council.
6. The number of seats of each group on the Council and the resulting number of seats on committees and percentages are as follows:

	Conservative	Residents' Association & Independent	Liberal Democrats	Labour	Green	Total
Number of Council seats	46 <i>(previously 47)</i>	16	15 <i>(previously 14)</i>	2	2	81
Number of seats on committees	52 <i>(previously 53)</i>	18	17 <i>(previously 16)</i>	2	2	91
Percentage	57%	20%	19%	2%	2%	100%

N.B The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 require a constituted political group to be two or more members.

7. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that as far as reasonably practicable, the following principles must be adhered to when determining the allocation of seats on committees to political groups:
- (a) The seats on a committee cannot be allocated to members of one political group.
 - (b) The largest group on the council must be allocated the majority of seats on any committee.
 - (c) Subject to (a) and (b) the total number of committee seats allocated to each political group must reflect the proportion of total members of the authority from each political group.
 - (d) Subject to (a) to (c) above, the number of the seats on a committee which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on the committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.
8. The application of these principles results in a change to the proportional allocation of committee seats, which is set out in Annex 1 below.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the revised scheme of proportionality as set out in Annex 1 to this report.

CONTACT

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Report to County Council AGM, 24 May 2022
Local Government and Housing Act 1989
Local Government (Committees and Political
Groups Regulations) 1990
Proportional Representation Table
Constitution of the Council

REVISED SCHEME OF PROPORTIONALITY 2022/23

	CON	RA & IND	LIB DEM	LAB	GREEN	Total	Previous figs
SELECT COMMITTEES							
Adults & Health	7	3	2	1	0	13*	13
Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture	7	3	2	0	1	13*	13
Communities, Environment & Highways	7	3	2	0	1	13	13
Resources & Performance	7	2	3	1	0	13	13
PLANNING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE	6	2	3	0	0	11	11
AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	4	1	1	0	0	6*	6
PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	4	1	1	0	0	6	6
SURREY PENSION FUND COMMITTEE	4	1	1	0	0	6*	6
						81	81
MEMBER CONDUCT PANEL	6	2	2	0	0	10	10
TOTAL	52	18	17	2	2	91	91

* additional co-opted members are appointed to these committees

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