

**Decision Maker:**       **COUNCIL**

**Date:**                   **Wednesday 15 May 2024**

**Decision Type:**       Non-Urgent                   Non-Executive                   Non-Key

**Title:**                   **PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

**Contact Officer:**     Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager  
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**Chief Officer:**        Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

**Ward:**                   All

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1.    Reason for decision/report and options

- 1.1   The Council is required to carry out a review of committee seats at least annually in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and these requirements are reflected in this report. Further details of the nominations by each group to membership of Committees and Sub-Committees will be circulated in a separate schedule.

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2.    **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Council approves (i) the proportionality of Committees, (ii) membership of Committees and (iii) Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees in accordance with the circulated Schedule.**

## Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not Applicable
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## Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
  2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:  
(5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Representation
  4. Total current budget for this head: £1.2m
  5. Source of funding: Revenue Budget
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## Personnel

1. Number of staff (*current and additional*): Not Applicable
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: The Local Government and Housing Act 1989
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable: Decisions by full Council are not subject to call-in
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## Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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## Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
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## Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable
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## Impact on the Local Economy

1. Summary of Local Economy Implications: Not Applicable
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## Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Wellbeing Implications: Not Applicable
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (*current and projected*): Not Applicable
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## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities, where Members are divided into political groups, to review periodically the representation of the political groups on their Committees and Sub-Committees to ensure a political balance.
- 3.2 The following principles apply to the allocation of seats:
- (a) That not all the seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;
  - (b) That the majority of seats on each Committee are allocated to a particular group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
  - (c) That, subject to (a) and (b), when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership; and
  - (d) Subject to (a) to (c), that the number of seats on each committee is, as far as possible, in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.
- 3.3 Sub-Committees are also governed by the political balance rule. As far as this is practicable, the allocation of seats on each sub-committee should also reflect the proportional representation of the political groups on the Council. However, the Executive and executive-side appointments are excluded from proportionality requirements.
- 3.4 Following the local election on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022, at which 58 councillors were elected to represent 22 wards, and by elections for Hayes and Coney Hall (December 2023) and Shortlands and Park Langley (May 2024), the size of each group is currently as follows –
- Conservative Group - 34 seats (58.6%)
  - Labour Group -12 seats (20.7%)
  - Liberal Democrat Group - 5 seats (8.6%)
  - Chislehurst Matters Group - 3 seats (5.2%)
  - Biggin Hill Independent Group - 2 seats (3.5%)
- In addition, there are two Independent Councillors who do not constitute a group. The Regulations do not allow for independent Councillors, and any councillors not attached to a group have no right to any committee or sub-committee seats, but good practice is to provide them with a roughly proportionate allocation of seats so that they can participate in the work of the Council.
- 3.5 Appointments to Committees are made by full Council but based on the nominations of each group. The number of Plans Sub-Committees is expected to reduce from four to two. Unless members decide to make any further changes, the overall number of seats available is now 187, or roughly 3.2 committee seats per councillor. The proposed allocation of seats will be set out in a schedule to be circulated as Appendix A, which will reflect the wishes of each group.
- 3.6 Committees will meet briefly following the end of the annual Council meeting to agree proportionality of their sub-committees, appoint members to their sub-committees and appoint chairmen and vice-chairmen of their sub-committees.

<b>Non-Applicable Headings:</b>	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children, Policy, Financial, Personnel, Legal, Procurement, Property, Carbon reduction, Local Economy/Health and Wellbeing/Customer Impact, Ward Councillor views.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Proportionality and Appointment of Committees – Report to full Council on 10 May 2023