

To: All Members of the Council

Louise Fleming, Democratic Services &
Business Support Team Manager

Policy and Governance

E-mail: louise.fleming@waverley.gov.uk

Direct line: 01483 523517

Calls may be recorded for training or monitoring

Date: 6 May 2022

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022

The **ANNUAL MEETING** of the **WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, THE BURYS, GODALMING** on **TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022** at **7.00 pm** and you are hereby summoned to attend this meeting.

The Agenda for the Meeting is set out below.

Yours sincerely

ROBIN TAYLOR

Head of Policy and Governance

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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

9. REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY OF THE COUNCIL AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS (Pages 3 - 14)

****This supplementary agenda has been reissued due to the omission of the Chairman of the Standards and General Purposes Committee from the previous version****

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities, where Members are divided into political groups, to review annually the representation of the political groups on their principal committees to ensure that the seats are allocated in the same proportion as that in which the council as a whole is divided.

This report recommends that the Council establish committees, allocate the seats on those committees to political groups represented on the Council in accordance with the statutory proportionality rules, and agree to the appointment of the groups' nominees.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council:

- i. Note the political balance of the Council, as set out in paragraph 4.4.
- ii. Approve the constitution of committees, the allocation of seats, the appointment of members to those seats in accordance with Group's nominations, and the nomination of chairman and vice-chairman positions, as set out in Annexes 1 and 2.
- iii. Approve the allocation of seats and appointments to the Surrey County Council Local Committee.

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

12 MAY 2021

Title:

**Review of Political Proportionality of the Council, allocation of committee seats,
and appointments to committees for 2022/23**

Report of the Monitoring Officer: Robin Taylor, Head of Policy & Governance

Access: Public

Reason for urgency: The Mayor has agreed to the submission of this late item due to the need to review the representation of political groups on the Council's committees and agree the appointment of the groups' nominees to those committees before the start of the 2022/23 municipal year.

1. Purpose and summary

- 1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities, where Members are divided into political groups, to review annually the representation of the political groups on their principal committees to ensure that the seats are allocated in the same proportion as that in which the council as a whole is divided.
- 1.2 This report recommends that the Council establish committees, allocate the seats on those committees to political groups represented on the Council in accordance with the statutory proportionality rules, and agree to the appointment of the groups' nominees.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council:

- i. Note the political balance of the Council, as set out in paragraph 4.4.
- ii. Approve the constitution of committees, the allocation of seats, the appointment of members to those seats in accordance with Group's nominations, and the nomination of chairman and vice-chairman positions, as set out in Annexes 1 and 2.
- iii. Approve the allocation of seats and appointments to the Surrey County Council Local Committee.

3. Reason for the recommendation

It is a statutory requirement to report to Annual Council on the political composition of the council, the allocation of committee seats to political groups in

accordance with political proportionality, and to confirm the appointment of members to committee seats.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 Political Groups on the Council are formed in accordance with the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 when two or more councillors notify the Head of Policy & Governance, the Proper Officer, of their wish to be treated as a group.
- 4.2. The Conservatives, Farnham Residents, Liberal Democrats, Green Party and Labour have registered as Political Groups under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. There is one un-grouped Independent Member of the Council and one vacancy in the Hindhead ward. Following the by-election in that ward, a further review will be required as soon as is practicable.
- 4.3. There is a total of 90 committee seats available on the Council's Principal Committees: two Overview & Scrutiny Committees; Audit; Standards & General Purposes; Licensing & Regulatory; Eastern and Western Planning Committees; Joint Appointments Committee; and Joint Governance Committee.
- 4.4. The political breakdown of the Council is shown below, together with the rounded total number of committee seats per group:

	Cons.	Farnham Residents	Lib. Dem.	Green	Labour	Ind.	Vacancy	Total
No. of seats on the Council	20	15	15	2	2	2	1	57
Proportion	35.08%	26.32%	26.32%	3.51%	3.51%	3.51%	1.75%	100%
No. of committee seats	32 (21.58)	24 (23.68)	24 (23.68)	3 (3.16)	3 (3.16)	3 (3.16)	1 (1.58)	90*

*see paragraph 4.6

- 4.5 The following principles apply to the allocation of seats (LG&HA1989, s15 (5)):
- (a) *Preventing domination by a single group: That not all the seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;*
 - (b) *Ensuring a majority group enjoys a majority on all committees: 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) *Aggregating all committee places and allocating fair shares: 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) *Ensuring as far as practicable fairness on each committee: That, subject to (a) to (c), the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.*

4.6 Seats are allocated to each committee as shown in Annexe 1, and following consultation with the Leaders of each of the political groups represented on the Council. Their agreement has been obtained to the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees in order to accommodate various rounding errors.

Appointments to Committee Places

4.7 The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires that once the Council has determined the allocation of committee places between the political groups, the Council must then appoint the nominees of the political groups to the committees. The nominations of the Group Leaders are shown on Annexe 2.

Area Planning Committees

4.8 The allocation of planning committee seats to the Groups has been calculated firstly as a proportion of the total number of planning committee seats (= 30 seats). The allocation of seats on the Eastern and Western Planning Committees is calculated allocated according to the political proportionality of the council seats within the relevant geographical area.

Surrey County Council Local Committee

4.9 Waverley Borough Council has nine seats on the Surrey County Council Waverley Local Committee, allocated on a political proportional basis as shown in Annexe 1.

5. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan

5.1 The corporate governance of the Council provides the basis of the Council's work towards achieving all the Corporate Priorities.

6. Implications of decision

6.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

The cost of servicing the Council's Committees will be met through existing budgets.

6.2 Risk management

N/A

6.3 Legal

The legal implications are set out in the body of the report..

6.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

The Council is under a statutory duty to ensure that equality and diversity is a key part of the decision making process of the Council. This is fundamental to the

Council being able to meet its statutory responsibilities. There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications in this report.

6.5 Climate emergency declaration

There are no climate emergency implications arising from this report.

7. Consultation and engagement

7.1 Political groups have been invited to make their appointments to the seats allocated to them. The Council must agree to appoint members nominated by the political groups to the seats allocated to those groups.

8. Other options considered

8.1 The Council must appoint at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and a Licensing Committee. All other committees are constituted at the discretion of the Council.

9. Governance journey

9.1 This report is being made to the Full Council.

Annexes:

Annexe 1 – Political proportionality and allocation of committee seats

Annexe 2 – Committee memberships 2022/23

Background Papers

There are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972).

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Louise Fleming

Position: Democratic Services and Business Support Team Manager

Telephone: 01483 3523517

Email: louise.fleming@waverley.gov.uk

Annexe 1

Allocation of Committee seats with effect from 17 May 2022

	Cons.	Farnham Residents	Lib. Dem.	Green	Labour	Ind.	Vacancy	Total
Total no. of seats on the Council	20	15	15	2	2	2	1	57
% of no. of seats on the Council	35.08%	26.32%	26.32%	3.51%	3.51%	3.51%	1.75%	100%
No. of committee seats (90)	32 (31.58)	24 (23.68)	24 (26.68)	3 (3.16)	3 (3.16)	3 (3.16)	1 (1.58)	90
O&S 1 – Resources	4	3	3	0	1	0	0	11
O&S 2 - Services	4	3	3	1	0	0	0	11
Licensing & Regulatory Committee	4	3	3	1	0	1	0	12
Audit Committee	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	8
Standards Committee	3	2	2	0	0	1	1	9
Guildford and Waverley Joint Appointments Committee	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Guildford and Waverley Joint Governance Committee	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	6
Eastern Planning Committee	7	0	5	1	1	1	0	15
Western Planning Committee	4	8	3	0	0	0	0	15
	32	24	24	3	3	3	1	90

	Cons.	Farnham Residents	Lib. Dem.	Green	Labour	Ind.	Total
SCC Local Committee	3	3	2	0	1	0	9

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WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Committee Memberships 2022/23

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COMMITTEES AND POLITICAL GROUPS) REGULATIONS 1990

indicates Chairman

* indicates Vice-Chairman

Committee	Conservative	Farnham Residents	Liberal Democrat	Green Party	Labour	Independent	Vacancy	Total seats
<u>O&S 1 - Resources</u>	<u>Vacancy x1</u> Chris Howard Peter Martin Stephen Mulliner#	Roger Blishen John Neale George Hesse	Jerome Davidson Joan Heagin* Peter Nicholson	0	George Wilson	0	0	11
	<u>Substitutes</u> David Else John Gray	<u>Substitute</u> Brian Edmonds	<u>Substitute</u> Christine Baker					
<u>O&S 2 - Services</u>	Carole Cockburn Kevin Deanus# Jenny Else Mary Foryszewski	Peter Marriott* Michaela Wicks Sally Dickson	Ruth Reed Philip Townsend <u>Vacancy x1</u>	0	0	0	0	11
	<u>Substitutes</u> Michael Goodridge Richard Seaborne	<u>Substitute</u> Michaela Martin	<u>Substitute</u> Joan Heagin					

Committee	Conservative	Farnham Residents	Liberal Democrat	Green Party	Labour	Independent	Vacancy	Total seats
<u>Licensing and Regulatory Committee</u>	Patricia Ellis Michael Goodridge* Anna James Robert Knowles#	Roger Blishen Jerry Hyman John Ward	Jacque Keen Ruth Reed Jerome Davidson	Martin D'Arcy	0	David Munro	0	12
	<u>Substitutes</u> Steve Cosser Jenny Else	<u>Substitute</u> Michaela Martin	<u>Substitute</u> Joan Heagin					
Audit Committee	Jan Floyd-Douglass John Gray Richard Seaborne	Sally Dickson Peter Marriott#	Jerome Davidson* Vacancy x1	0	George Wilson	0	0	8
Standards & General Purposes Committee	Michael Goodridge* John Gray Robert Knowles	John Ward Peter Marriott	Peter Nicholson John Robini#	0	0	Maxine Gale	Vacancy x1	9
	<u>Substitute</u> Vacancy x1	<u>Substitute</u> Peter Clark	<u>Substitute</u> Ruth Reed					
Landlord Services Advisory Board	Stephen Mulliner	Michaela Wicks	Jaquie Keen John Robini	0	0	0	0	4

Appeals Panel	Steve Cosser Michael Goodridge Val Henry Christine Howard	Roger Blishen Michaela Wicks Kika Mirylees	Paul Follows Jacquie Keen Mark Merryweather	Steve Williams	George Wilson	0	12
SCC Local Committee (operates under SCC Standing Orders)	Carole Cockburn Steve Cosser Trevor Sadler	George Hesse Jerry Hyman John Neale	Paul Rivers Mark Merryweather	0	George Wilson	0	9

Planning Committees

Committee	Conservative	Farnham Residents	Liberal Democrat	Green Party	Labour	Independent	Total seats
EASTERN PLANNING COMMITTEE	David Else (Vice Chairman) Steve Cosser Trevor Sadler Kevin Deanus John Gray Patricia Ellis Michael Goodridge <u>Substitutes</u> [Val Henry] [Christine Howard] [Jan Floyd-Douglass] [Mary Forszewski] [Richard Seaborne]	0	Penny Rivers (Chairman) Ruth Reed Joan Heagin Liz Townsend Paul Follows <u>Substitutes</u> Christine Baker Vacancy	Martin D'Arcy <u>Substitute</u> Steve Williams	George Wilson <u>Substitute</u> Nick Palmer	Maxine Gale	15 plus 9 subs

WESTERN PLANNING COMMITTEE	Carole Cockburn Anna James Simon Dear Stephen Mulliner	David Beaman (Chairman) Roger Blishen Sally Dickson Brian Edmonds George Hesse Michaela Martin John Neale Michaela Wicks <u>Substitutes</u>	Cllr John Robini (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Dan Hunt Cllr Jacquie Keen <u>Substitutes</u> [Peter Nicholson] [Jerome Davidson]	0	0	0	15 plus
	<u>Substitute</u> Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy	Jerry Hyman John Ward Vacancy					8 subs

Joint Committees

Committee	Conservative	Farnham Residents	Liberal Democrat	Green Party	Labour	Independent	Total seats
Joint Appointments Committee	Stephen Mulliner	Peter Clark	Paul Follows [#]	0	0	0	6 (3 each from Guildford and Waverley) No subs

Joint Governance Committee	Michael Goodridge Stephen Mulliner <u>Substitute</u> Vacancy	Peter Marriott Peter Clark <u>Substitute</u> John Ward	Paul Follows# John Robini <u>Substitute</u> Mark Merryweather	0	0	0	12 (6 each from Guildford and Waverley)
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Other Groups

CIL Advisory Board	Cllrs Palmer, Edmonds, Hesse, MacLeod, Merryweather, Mulliner, Liz Townsend
Climate Emergency Governance Board	Cllrs D'Arcy, Dickson, Merryweather, Palmer, Reed, Seaborne, Liz Townsend and Williams
Dunsfold Park GV Governance Board	Cllr Follows, MacLeod, Penny Marriott, Mirylees, Paul Rivers, Liz Townsend and Williams.
Housing Delivery Board	Cllrs Palmer, Merryweather, Rivers
Property Investment Advisory Board	Cllrs Clark, Davidson, Merryweather, Liz Townsend Vacancy (Cons)

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