



REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TO:	COUNCIL FORUM
ON:	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2023

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## COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS 2023/24 - Update

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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update on the composition and the political balance of the Council, note the change to appointments to committees and approve the Vice-Chair of the Planning & Highways Committee for the remainder of Council year 2023/24.

### 2. BACKGROUND

Further to approval of the Council Appointments at the Annual Council meeting on 18 May 2023, Councillor Hussain Akhtar has resigned from the Council's Labour Group and now serves as an Independent member.

The current political composition of the Council is as follows:

Labour	38 seats
Conservative	12 seats
Independent	1 seat
<b>Total</b>	<b>51 Seats</b>

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act") imposes a duty on the Council to allocate seats on committees to political groups in accordance with the size of each group as a whole, unless alternative arrangements are notified to all Members and agreed without any councillor voting against them. The Council is required to observe the following principles as far as it is reasonably practicable:

- (a) that not all seats on the body are allocated to the same group;
- (b) that the majority of seats on the body are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
- (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
- (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group

bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of Members of that group to the membership of the authority.

In light of the change to the political composition, the proportionality and allocation of seats on council committees to political groups has been reviewed and detailed below:

**Summary of seats – July 2023**

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>SEATS on the Council</b>	<b>Seat percentage entitlement based on 50 Councillors</b>	<b>Seats on Committees based on 81 seats in total</b>	<b>Rounded to</b>
<b>Labour</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>76.0%</b>	<b>61.56</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Conservative</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24.0%</b>	<b>19.44</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>TOTAL for Proportionality</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>81</b>	
<b>Independent</b>	<b>1</b>			
<b>TOTAL SEATS</b>	<b>51</b>			<b>81</b>

As an independent member cannot constitute a political group there is no requirement to consider them when calculating proportionality based on Council's political composition, and allocate seats to them.

With reference to the above calculations, the allocation of seats to the Labour and Conservative political groups remain unchanged. The Labour Group Leader has therefore nominated the following to the two seats on committees previously held by Councillor Akhtar:

- Councillor Suleman Khonat: Planning & Highways Committee
- Councillor Salma Patel: Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

As Councillor Akhtar was also the vice-chair of Planning & Highways Committee, the Council will need to approve a new appointment for this position, for the remainder of Council year 2023/24.

**3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council:

- 1) notes the current political composition and political balance on the Council, as referred to in this report;
- 2) notes the new appointments to the Planning & Highways Committee and the Children's & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and

- 3) approves the appointment of Councillor Sabahat Imtiaz as vice-chair of Planning & Highways Committee for the remainder of Council year 2023/24.

**Denise Park  
Chief Executive  
26<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Background Papers: The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Council Constitution (all published)

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