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**Our reference:**  
**Your reference:**  
**Date:** Monday, 2 March 2026

To all Members of the Council

Dear Councillor

## **AGENDA SUPPLEMENT**

Please note the attached document below for the meeting of the Council to be held on Thursday, 5 March 2026, the agenda for which has already been published.

Yours sincerely



Sara Pregon  
Monitoring Officer

## **AGENDA**

11. Update on the Political Composition of the Council and Committee Membership (Pages 1 - 8)

The report of the Chief Executive is attached.

### Membership

Chairman: Councillor J Cottee

Vice-Chairman: Councillor R Butler

Councillors: M Barney, J Billin, T Birch, R Bird, A Brennan, A Brown, S Calvert, J Chaplain, K Chewings, N Clarke, T Combella, S Dellar, A Edyvean, S Ellis, G Fletcher, M Gaunt, E Georgiou, P Gowland, C Grocock, R Inglis, R Mallender, S Mallender, D Mason, P Matthews, H Om, H Parekh, A Phillips, L Plant, D Polenta, N Regan, D Simms, D Soloman, C Thomas, R Upton, D Viridi, J Walker, R Walker, L Way, T Wells, G Wheeler, J Wheeler and G Williams

## Meeting Room Guidance

**Fire Alarm Evacuation:** In the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble at the far side of the plaza outside the main entrance to the building.

**Toilets:** Are located to the rear of the building near the lift and stairs to the first floor.

**Mobile Phones:** For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

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**Council**

**Thursday, 5 March 2026**

**Update on Political Composition of the Council and  
Committee Membership**

## **Report of the Chief Executive**

### **Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership, Councillor N Clarke**

#### **1. Purpose of report**

To agree the revised allocation of committee seats following recent changes in the political composition of the Council to ensure political proportionality.

#### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that Council:

- a) confirms the revised allocation of committee seats as set out in Appendix 1;
- b) confirms the change to the appointment of the Vice-Chair of Growth and Development Scrutiny Group as set out at paragraph 4.8 of the report; and
- c) confirms the changes in membership of committees as set out in Appendix 2, in line with Group Leaders' wishes.

#### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

In order to ensure seat allocation is made in accordance with the principles of proportionality prescribed by law and to agree proposed changes to the membership of committees approved at the Council's Annual Meeting on 22 May 2025.

#### **4. Supporting Information**

4.1. Following the changes to the political composition of the Council approved at the last Council meeting of 27 November 2025, there have been a number of further changes which have necessitated a review of the allocation of seats to be undertaken again. In particular:

- On 11 December 2025, Councillor Andy Edyvean gave notice that he was no longer a member of the Conservative Group and would sit on Council as an un-grouped Independent Non-Aligned Member.

- On 19 December, Councillor Elena Georgiou gave notice that she was joining the Conservative Group and would no longer sit as a member of the Bingham Independents' Group.
  - As the Bingham Independents' Group was constituted of two members and as it is not possible for a group to be constituted of fewer than two members, the Bingham Independents' Group was effectively disbanded and the remaining member, Councillor Rowan Bird, would sit on Council as an Independent Non-Aligned Member.
  - However, on 4 February 2026, notice was received that Councillor Andy Edyvean, Councillor Alan Phillips and Councillor Rowan Bird had formed a new Political Group named Independent – People First.
- 4.2. Where there is a change in political composition of the Council affecting Political Groups, it is appropriate for the Council to review the allocation of committee seats to ensure compliance with legal rules on political proportionality.
- 4.3. These rules are set out in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. These rules require that seats on committees and sub-committees are allocated to the Political Groups of the Council in a way which reflects the overall balance on the Council. Where a Political Group has an overall majority of seats on Council, it must have a majority of seats on each committee.
- 4.4. In addition to the changes set out in paragraph 4.1 above, a new cross-party Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Member Working Group has been constituted by Cabinet. The Terms of Reference for the Group require membership to be based on the rules of proportionality as confirmed by the Monitoring Officer. The Group is comprised of 17 members to achieve political proportionality. These 17 seats have been included in the revised seat allocation.
- 4.5. The Barton in Fabis Task and Finish Group has now concluded with its final meeting being held in January 2026. This Group has not been included in the calculations for the revised seat allocations.
- 4.6. Overall, amendments have been kept to the minimum considered possible to meet the requirements of the legislation.
- 4.7. Following the allocation of seats in accordance with political balance, if any seats remain unallocated, the Council is required to allocate these to those individual Members who do not sit on Council as part of a political group. Under the revised proportionality calculation, four seats remain unallocated. The proposed changes to the allocation of committee seats is set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.8. It is also proposed to make a change to the appointments approved by Council at its AGM in May 2025 to the Vice-Chair of Growth and Development Scrutiny Group, with Councillor Jason Billin to be appointed in place of Councillor Lesley Way. This proposed change would also mean that Councillor Billin would

replace Councillor Way on Corporate Overview Group, as its membership includes the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees. The proposed changes to membership of Committees and Member Groups is set out in Appendix 2.

## **5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection**

- 5.1. It is possible to allocate the discretionary allocation of seats in a number of different permutations; however, any allocation must meet the principles of proportionality set out in paragraph 4.3 above.
- 5.2. Section 17 of the 1989 Act allows for an authority to make its own arrangements for appointments without the need to achieve political balance provided that no Member of the Council votes against such a proposal.

## **6. Risks and Uncertainties**

If the Council does not comply with the legal requirements set out in legislation then it would be acting outside of its lawful powers. This would undermine the decision making of the Council and risks an increase in complaints and legal challenges. This would also lead to reputational damage and risks undermining public trust in local government and the democratic process.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1. Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **7.2. Legal Implications**

In accordance with its duties under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Council has a duty to allocate seats in accordance with the political balance of the authority. The Council considered appointments to its committees at its Annual Meeting on 22 May 2025 and made relevant delegations regarding the appointment of members. The allocation of seats was reviewed at the Council Meeting of 27 November 2025 following changes in the political composition of the Council.

### **7.3. Equalities Implications**

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

### **7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications**

There are no direct Crime and Disorder Act implications arising from this report.

## 7.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications

There are no direct BNG implications arising from this report.

## 8. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	The allocation of committee seats in accordance with the Council's statutory duty and democratic principles contributes to the effective operation of the Council in achieving these priorities.
Quality of Life	
Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	

## 9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Council:

- a) confirms the revised allocation of committee seats as set out in Appendix 1;
- b) confirms the change to the appointment of the Vice-Chair of Growth and Development Scrutiny Group as set out at paragraph 4.8 of the report; and
- c) confirms the changes in membership of committees as set out in Appendix 2, in line with Group Leaders' wishes.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Rachel Clack Deputy Monitoring Officer 0115 914 8419 <a href="mailto:rclack@rushcliffe.gov.uk">rclack@rushcliffe.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	Annual Council Agenda and Minutes – 22 May 2025 Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes – 27 November 2025
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Revised Allocation of Committee Seats Appendix 2 – Committee Membership Changes

Political Proportionality – February 2026

Where we were in November 2025 (last Council report on Political Balance)

Group	Seats	% Council
Conservative	23	52
Labour	9	20
Green	2	5
Leake Independent	3	7
Bingham Independent	2	5
Rushcliffe Independent	2	5
Unaligned Independent	1	2
Liberal Democrat	1	2
Reform UK	1	2
Total	44	100

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Committee or Group	Number of seats available		Conservative	Labour	Green	Leake Independent	Bingham Independent	Rushcliffe Independent	Unaligned Independent	Liberal Democrat	Reform UK
Corporate Overview Group	7		4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Governance Scrutiny Group	9		5	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Communities Scrutiny Group	9		5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Growth and Development Scrutiny Group	9		5	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Planning Committee	11		6	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Licensing Committee	15		8	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Employment Appeals Committee	5		3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Interviewing Committee	5		3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Standards Committee	7		4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Local Development Framework Group	15		8	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Member Development Group	9		5	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board	9		5	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Civic Hospitality Panel	7		4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
WBSE&CIL Group	9		5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	126		70	26	6	9	6	6	1	1	1

**Explanation of changes – February 2026**

On 27 January, Cllr Edyvean informed the Council that Cllrs Bird, Phillips and himself were forming a new political Group to be called Independent – People First. The official paperwork forming the group was received by Democratic Services on 4 February.

As a result of this change, the political balance across the Council is 52% Conservative, 20% Labour, 5% Green, 7% Leake Independent, 5% Rushcliffe Independent and 7% Independent – People First. The Council now has two ungrouped Councillors.

An exercise to review the political balance of the Council has taken place. It has created the new Independent – People First political group, removed the Bingham Independent political group and included the newly formed Local Government Reorganisation Task and Finish Group.

The tables below outline the new allocation of committee positions (seat) to political groups:

Group	Seats	% Council
Conservative	23	52
Labour	9	20
Green	2	5
Leake Independent	3	7
Rushcliffe Independent	2	5
Independent - People First	3	7
Liberal Democrat	1	2
Reform UK	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100</b>

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Committee or Group	Number of seats available	Conservative	Labour	Green	Leake Independent	Rushcliffe Independent	Independent - People First	Liberal Democrat	Reform UK
Corporate Overview Group	7	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Governance Scrutiny Group	9	5	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Communities Scrutiny Group	9	5	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Growth and Development Scrutiny Group	9	5	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Planning Committee	11	6	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Licensing Committee	15	8	3	1	1	1	1	0	0
Employment Appeals Committee	5	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Interviewing Committee	5	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Standards Committee	7	4	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Local Development Framework Group	15	8	3	1	1	1	1	0	0
Member Development Group	9	5	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board	9	5	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Civic Hospitality Panel	7	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
WBSE&CIL Group	9	5	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
LGR T&FG	17	9	3	1	1	1	1	0	1
	<b>143</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

## Appendix 2

Committee	Proposed change from November 2025
Corporate Overview Group	To note the inclusion of Cllr J Billin in place of Cllr L Way
Governance Scrutiny Group	Rushcliffe Independent -1 Independent – People First +1
Growth and Development Scrutiny Group	To appoint Councillor Jason Billin as Vice Chair Independent – People First +1
Communities Scrutiny Group	Green -1 Independent – People First +1
Licensing Committee	To note the inclusion of Cllr L Way in place of Cllr J Billin AP -1 Independent – People First +1
Local Development Framework Group	Independent – People First +1
Employment Appeals Committee	Independent – People First +1
Standards Committee	Liberal Democrat +1
Member Development Group	Rushcliffe Independent -1 Independent – People First +1
Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board	Independent – People First +1
Civic Hospitality Panel	Labour +1 Leake Independent -1 Rushcliffe Independent +1

Note – Bingham Independent seats in November 2025:

- Growth and Development Scrutiny Group
- Employment Appeals Committee
- Standards Committee
- Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board
- Civic Hospitality Panel
- Local Development Framework Group

Note – Conservative Group to nominate to seats on:

- Planning Committee – Cllr E Georgiou
- Local Development Framework Group – Cllr E Georgiou

Note – Labour Groups to nominate to seats on:

- Civic Hospitality Panel – Cllr L Plant

Note – Rushcliffe Independents to nominate to seats on:

- Civic Hospitality Panel – Cllr T Birch

Note – Independent – People First to nominate to seats on:

- Governance Scrutiny Group – Cllr A Edyvean
- Growth and Development Scrutiny Group – Cllr R Bird
- Communities Scrutiny Group – Cllr A Phillips
- Licensing Committee – Cllr A Phillips
- Employment Appeals Committee – Cllr A Phillips
- Local Development Framework Group – Cllr R Bird
- Member Development Group – Cllr A Edyvean
- Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board – Cllr A Edyvean