



Council

Thursday, 27 November 2025

**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 a recent change in 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 changes to the appointments of the Chair of Standards Committee and Vice-chair of Planning Committee as set out in 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. On 7 October, Councillor Debbie Soloman gave notice that she was no longer a member of the Conservative Group and had joined Reform UK. Councillor Soloman now sits on Council as an un-grouped member representing Reform UK.
- 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. It is proposed to increase the membership of Standards Committee and Civic Hospitality Panel from 6 to 7 in order to minimise membership changes for Groups and to ensure that the Leading Group has the majority of seats on these committees. Overall, amendments have been kept to the minimum considered possible to meet the requirements of the legislation.
- 4.5. The Barton in Fabis Task and Finish Group only has one more meeting on 15 January 2026. It would not be appropriate therefore for new Members to join at this stage. For this reason, it has not been included in the calculations for the revised seat allocations.
- 4.6. These rules of proportionality apply to committees and sub-committees of the Council and do not apply to groups or committees constituted by Cabinet. For this reason, the proposed Task and Finish Group for Local Government Reorganisation would not be included in the overall number of seats in calculating the seat allocations in future. It will be at the discretion of Cabinet in establishing the Group whether the principles of political proportionality should be applied. The draft Terms of Reference for the Group include this.
- 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 Members who are not part of a political group. Under the revised proportionality calculation, three 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 changes to the appointments approved by Council at its AGM in May 2025 to the Chair of Standards Committee and Vice-chair of Planning Committee. Councillor Hari Om is to be appointed as Chair of Standards Committee. Councillor Andy Brown, the current Chair, is to stand down as Chair. The proposed changes to Planning Committee are that Councillor Andy Edyvean is to step down as Vice-chair and is to be replaced by Councillor Andy Brown. Cllr Edyvean will remain on the Committee. 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

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. There may be practical implications in having members of the same ward as Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee even though this is not expressly prohibited in the Council's Constitution. This would arise where an application for development in that ward came to Planning Committee for determination, and both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee considered that they were conflicted and, having declared an interest, stepped down from the debate and vote on that item. In those circumstances, another member of the Committee would have to take the Chair for that item.

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 previously considered appointments to its committees at its Annual Meeting on 22 May 2025 and made relevant delegations regarding the appointment of members.

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 changes to the appointments of the Chair of Standards Committee and Vice-chair of Planning Committee as set out in 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.

For more information contact:	Rachel Clack Deputy Monitoring Officer 0115 914 8419 rclack@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	Annual Council Agenda and Minutes – 22 May 2025
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Revised Allocation of Committee Seats Appendix 2 – Committee Membership Changes

Appendix 1

Political Proportionality – November 2025

May 2025 position (for comparative purposes)

Group / Individual	Seats	% Council
Conservative	24	55
Labour	9	20
Green	2	5
Leake Independent	3	7
Bingham Independent	2	5
Rushcliffe Independent	2	5
Liberal Democrat	1	2
Independent	1	2
Total	44	100

Committee or Group	Number of seats available		Conservative	Labour	Green	Leake Independent	Bingham Independent	Rushcliffe Independent	Liberal Democrat	Independent
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	1	1	0	0	0	0
Growth and Development Scrutiny Group	9		5	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Planning Committee	11		6	2	1	1	0	1	0	0
Licensing Committee	15		8	3	1	1	0	1	0	1
Employment Appeals Committee	5		2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Interviewing Committee	5		3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Standards Committee	6		3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Local Development Framework Group	15		8	3	1	1	1	1	0	0
Member Development Group	9		5	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board	9		5	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
Civic Hospitality Panel	6		3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
WBSE&CIL Group	9		5	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
	124		67	26	5	10	5	5	3	3

November 2025 position

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

Committee or Group	Number of seats available		Conservative	Labour	Green	Leake Independent	Bingham Independent	Rushcliffe Independent	Independent Non-Aligned	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	0	1
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	1	0
	126		70	26	6	9	6	6	1	1	1

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Update on Political Composition of the Council and Committee Membership

Appendix 2

Committee	Proposed change from May 2025
Planning Committee	To appoint Councillor Andy Brown as Vice Chair
Employment Appeals Committee	Conservative Group +1 Liberal Democrat -1
Interviewing Committee	Green +1 Liberal Democrat -1
Standards Committee	To appoint Councillor Hari Om as Chair Conservative Group +1 Rushcliffe Independents +1 Independent Non-Aligned -1
Member Development Group	Reform UK +1 Leake Independents -1
Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board	Bingham Independent +1 Independent Non-Aligned -1
Civic Hospitality Panel	Conservative Group +1