



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

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- 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 Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes – 27 November 2025
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Revised Allocation of Committee Seats Appendix 2 – Committee Membership Changes