

REPORT TITLE: Proportionality Update**To:**

Council (1 October 2026)

Report by:

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Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Director Robert Pollock confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Committee.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Council notes the change in proportionality following the Green Group now having 13 seats on the Council.

2. Purpose and reason for the report

- 2.1 Council to note the changes in political composition of the Council and the proportionality on committee seats.

3. Background and key issues

- 3.1 The allocation of seats on local authority committees is subject to statutory political balance requirements. These requirements are principally set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The purpose of the legislation is to ensure that, where councillors are divided into different political groups, the composition of committees reflects, as far as reasonably practicable, the political composition of the Council as a whole. This provides political groups with

representation on committees broadly proportionate to their representation on the Council.

Statutory requirements

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a duty on a relevant local authority to review the representation of political groups on committees and other bodies to which the political balance provisions apply. The review must take place, amongst other circumstances, at or as soon as practicable after the Council's annual meeting and following changes in the political composition of the authority.

Allocation of seats

Once Council has determined the allocation of seats to political groups, Section 16 of the 1989 Act requires the authority to exercise its appointment powers so as to give effect to that allocation. Where a seat has been allocated to a particular political group, the authority must give effect to the wishes of that group as to the person appointed to the seat.

- 3.2 With the Green Group now having 13 seats on the Council, up from 12 the proportionality of seats has been reviewed and the Green Group is therefore entitled to one further seat, which based on proportionality is on the Planning Committee. The Group have therefore increased their representation on the committee from 2 to 3.

At the Annual Council meeting Council agreed to depart unanimously from proportionality by allowing one seat on the Planning Committee to go to the then Your Party representative who was un-aligned. As this is no longer the case the seat by terms of proportionality is taken by the Green Group under the strict proportionality rules.

To note the Services, Climate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee increased to 10 seats and this seat was given to the non-aligned Conservative Councillor

as part of the unanimous agreement of Council.

4. Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact

- 4.1 Proportionality rules apply and the seat on Planning Committee is now allocated to the Green Group.

5. Implications

Relevant risks

- 5.1 None.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- 5.2 None.

Financial Implications

- 5.3 None.

Legal Implications

- 5.4 Proportionality rules applied by virtue of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Equalities and socio-economic Implications

- 5.5 None.

Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications

- 5.6 None.

Procurement Implications

5.7 None.

Community Safety Implications

5.8 None.

6. Background documents

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 None.

7. Appendices

7.1 None.

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Dan Kalley, Head of Governance and Democracy (Deputy Monitoring Officer), email: dan.kalley@cambridge.gov.uk