

# Full Council

Report to: Full Council

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## Political Proportionality and Allocation of Committee places and appointments to Panels, Forums and Joint Bodies

### Report summary:

In accordance with legislation and the Council's Constitution, this is a report to notify a change to the allocation and appointments of members for seats on the Council's committees for the remainder of the 2024/2025 municipal year following the notification in changes to group membership and the formation of a new grouping Cranbrook Voice.

The report also includes appointments to Panels, Forums and Joint Bodies for 2024/2025 which was deferred from the Annual Council meeting on 8 May 2024.

### Recommendation:

1. That the Council notes the revised political balance of the Council and agree the proposed allocation of committee places as set out in this report and its appendices.
2. That the Council agrees the proposed allocation of places to Panels, Forums and Joint Bodies for 2024/2025 as set out in Appendix 4.

### Reason for recommendation:

To meet the requirements of legislation and the Council's Constitution following a change in the membership and a new political grouping on the Council.

### Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes  No

Policy Framework Yes  No

### Consultation carried out:

Consultation with Political Group Leaders

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## **Financial implications:**

There are no financial implications relating to the change in members from the Independent Group to the Democratic Alliance Group or the creation of the Cranbrook Voice Group as no Special Responsibility Allowance Payments are affected.

## **Legal implications:**

The rules governing the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees to political groups are set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulations made thereunder including the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The provisions of the 1989 Act include the requirement that, where Members of the Council are divided into political groups, then the membership of its committees and sub-committees must reflect the political balance of the Council as a whole. The proposals set out in this report comply with the Council's Constitution.

## **Equalities impact** Low Impact

The Council's duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 is to have "due regard" to the matters set out in relation to equalities when considering and making decisions on the provision of services. There are no direct impacts of these recommendations on the provision of services. There are no direct impacts on sustainability, health and safety, community safety or privacy aspects as a result of this proposal.

## **Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk; This report ensures that the political balance of the committee allocations is in line with the relevant legislation and guidance.

**Links to background information** None.

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Where membership of East Devon District Council is divided into political groups the Council is required to review and allocate the total number of seats on committees in accordance with the strength of each political group.
- 1.2 The report reflects changes to the membership of political groupings and the formation of a new group, Cranbrook Voice Group, since the allocations were approved at Annual Council in May 2024. This results in members of each political group on the Council having the following political balance:

Democratic Alliance Group = 31 members

Conservative = 15 members

Independent Group = 8 members

Cranbrook Voice = 3 members

Independent Councillor Group = 2 members

Un grouped councillor = 1 member

The Democratic Alliance form the majority administration from 2024 to 2025. This report has been prepared on the basis of the political groups reflecting the revised position set out above.

- 1.3 The revised political balance results in the following entitlement to seats for committees where political balance rules apply:

<b>Total Number of Seats</b>			
Democratic Alliance Group	31 members (30 members)	53% (51%)	59 seats 59 seats
Conservative Group	15 members (15 members)	25% (25%)	28 seats (28 seats)
The Independent Group	8 members (12 members)	14% (20%)	15 seats (22 seats)
Cranbrook Voice	3 members	5%	7 seats
Independent Councillor Group	2 members (2 members)	3% (3%)	2 seats (2 seats)
Un grouped	1 member	0%	0 seats
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>60 members</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>111 seats</b>

Figures in brackets reflect the allocations agreed at Annual Council on 8 May 2024.

## **2. Appointments / Allocation of places**

- 2.1 The Council's committee places (also known as seats) to be allocated to the political groups has been calculated and the political group leaders informed.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 sets out guidance regarding the method of allocation of seats / places on committees and comments on the application of this in relation to Appendix 2. Appendix 2 sets out the calculation of aggregate entitlement to places on Committees on the basis that the Council continues to agree the recommendation of the political group leaders.
- 2.3 Appendix 3 sets out the political group leaders proposed nominations to the committee places to reflect the change in the committee seat allocations. When approving Appendix 3 the Council will meet the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which requires the application of certain rules to the appointment of council committees. The Schedule provides for:
- (a) The appointment of members to the committees of the Council.
  - (b) The appointment of substitute members to the Personnel Committee and Standards Committee.

- 2.4 Full Council may waive the political balance rules for any committee(s) where the Council wishes to appoint an alternative number of members from political groups. In order for political balance to be waived no member must vote against this motion, an objection by a single member would make it necessary to apply political balance rules.
- 2.6 This report also includes details of the political groups' nominations to be appointed to Panels, Forums and Joint Bodies for 2024/2025 set out in Appendix 4.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 Members are invited to approve the recommendations as set out in the report. To ensure that the Council's governance framework is up to date and reflects the current political balance within the Council and to enable the required appointments to be agreed for the remainder of the civic year 2024/25.

### **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Method of allocation guidance

Appendix 2 – Membership of Committees – Seats and Proportional Balance

Appendix 3 – Schedule of Committee Appointments

Appendix 4 – Schedule of appointments Panels, Forums and Joint Bodies