

# Report to Council

**12 December 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	Political Balance of Committees and Boards
<b>Director:</b>	Assistant Chief Executive – James McLaughlin
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Trisha Newton Trisha_newton@sandwell.gov.uk







## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council approve the political balance of the committees, boards and other fora for the remainder of 2023-24, as set out in Appendix A.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Following a change in political balance, the Council is asked to approve the political balance of committees, boards and other fora.

## 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		The Council's decision-making structures are designed to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan.
		
		



## 4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides, amongst other things, that where a local authority is divided into different political groups, it will have regard to the allocation to the different political groups on the Council, of all of those seats on any ordinary committee, sub-committee and Joint Authorities established pursuant to Part IV of the Local Government Act 1985.

4.2 The regulations provide for a political group to comprise two or more elected members of a local authority.

4.3 Notification has been received of 2 groups –

Labour	60
Conservative	10
Independent	$\frac{2}{72}$

The seats on committees have been allocated according to proportionality rules (as set out in Appendix A).

4.4 A political group represented on the Council may choose to allocate a proportion of its allocation of seats to an elected member who is not in a political group on the Council, without affecting proportionality.

## 5 Alternative Options

5.1 There is no alternative option, the Council has a duty to allocate seats according to political party, in accordance with the Act and appointment of elected members to committees and other/outside bodies can only be made by full Council.



## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	There is a duty on the Council to allocate seats to political groups, as per the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Council can determine the making of non-executive appointments to committees and other fora. Council is under a legal and constitutional obligation to make appointments to its committees, boards and other fora to ensure the effective operation of the Council's functions and other obligations, duties and responsibilities.
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	
<b>Social Value</b>	
<b>Climate Change</b>	
<b>Corporate Parenting</b>	

## 7. Appendices

Appendix A – Political Balance of Committees and Boards

## 8. Background Papers

None

