

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20 JULY 2023

Report Title	Political Balance and Committee Allocations			
Purpose of Report	To update the allocation of seats in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and appoint changes to membership of committees and appointments with effect from 20 July 2023.			
Decision(s)	The Council RESOLVES to approve the changes to committee membership and political balance as set out in the report and appendix A.			
Consultation and Feedback	The proposed appointments have been subject to consultation with the Group Leaders.			
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Options	Members may make alternative nominations to the places available on committees subject to compliance with the allocation rules.			
Background Papers	None.			
Appendices	Appendix A – Nominations for Committee Seat Allocations.			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	Yes	No	No

1. Political Composition

The Council consists of a number of political groupings. The various groups comprise the following Members.

Conservative Group Councillors (16)		
Gordon Craig	Nick Hurst	Loraine Patrick
Stephen Davies	Julie Job	Keith Pearson
Trina Davis	Haydn Jones	Mark Ryder
Chris Evans	John Jones	Haydn Sutton
Victoria Gray	David Mossman	Brian Tipper
Lindsey Green*	Gill Oxley	
Community Independent Group Councillors (4)		
Doina Cornell	Colin Fryer	Trevor Hall
Robin Layfield*		
Green Group Councillors (14)		
Beki Aldam	Jonathan Edmunds	Martin Pearcy
Martin Baxendale	Steve Hynd	Lucas Schoemaker
Catherine Braun*	Chris Jockel	Chloe Turner
Martin Brown	Norman Kay	Tricia Watson
Kate Crews	Gary Luff	
Independent Left Group (4)		

Natalie Bennett*	Helen Fenton	Mattie Ross
Paula Baker		
Labour Group Councillors (5)		
Jessie Hoskin	Nigel Prenter	Ashley Smith
Jenny Miles	Steve Robinson*	
SDC Liberal Democrat Group Councillors (3)		
George James	Ken Tucker*	Rich Wilsher

* **Group Leader**

Note: In addition to the above, there are four Independent Members, namely, Councillors Nigel Studdert-Kennedy (known as 'Conservative - No Group') and Councillors Chris Brine, Laurie Davies and Nick Housden.

2. Committees

The committees which are subject to political balance requirements currently comprise the following:

Committee	No. of Members on the committee
Audit & Standards	9
Community Services & Licensing	12
Development Control	12
Environment	13
Housing	12
Strategy and Resources	14

3. Allocations to committees subject to political balance requirements

The seats on each committee must be allocated to each political group as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. On the basis of the existing committee structure, the changes to the political balance and agreement between the Alliance Groups, the allocations are as set out below (changes have been highlighted in red).

Total no. of councillors 51	Conservative (16 Cllrs)	Green (14 Cllrs)	Labour (5 Cllrs)	Community Independents (4 Cllrs)	Independent Left (4 Cllrs)	Liberal Democrats (3 Cllrs)	Total seats available
Audit & Standards	3	3	1	1	1	0	9
Community Services & Licensing	5	3	1	1	1	1	12
Development Control	5	5	1	0	1	0	12
Environment	4	5	2	1	0	1	13
Housing	4	3	1	1	2	1	12
Strategy & Resources	5	3	2	1	2	1	14
Seats to be allocated per Group	25	23	8	5	7	4	72

3.2 Committee Memberships were agreed at the Council Annual Meeting on 18 May 2023.

3.3 Due to the change to the political balance following Councillor Laurie Davies's decision to become an Independent Councillor and Councillor Nick Hurst's decision to join the Conservative Group, nominations for the updated seat allocations will be shown in red in the tables in Appendix A.

3.4 The Labour Group and Conservative Group have also notified Democratic Services of the following changes which have been implemented:

- Councillor Jessie Hoskin replaced Councillor Nigel Prenter on Environment Committee
- Councillor Ashley Smith replaced Councillor Laurie Davies on Strategy and Resources Committee.
- Councillor Nick Hurst replaced Councillor Trina Davis on Strategy and Resources Committee.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications of this decision.

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4.2 Legal Implications

Under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as the Council has the power to make appointments to the membership of committees it also has a duty to review the representation of different political groups on that body where the members are divided into different political groups.

One Legal

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4.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.