

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 24 MAY 2023

RATIOS ON AND APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1. Proportionality

- 1.1 Political Groups on the Council are formed in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. They are treated as constituted when the Chief Executive, as proper officer, is given a notice in writing which sets out the name of the group; is signed by two or more members who wish to be treated as that political group; and includes the name of one member of the group who has signed the notice and who is to act as its leader.
- 1.2 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 imposes a duty on the local authority at the annual meeting, or as soon as possible after it, to review the allocation of seats on the committees of the Council between the political groups.
- 1.3 The following principles apply to the allocation of seats:
 - (a) That not all the seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) That the majority of seats on each committee are allocated to a particular group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - (c) That, subject to (a) and (b), when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council, must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership (see notes below); and
 - (d) Subject to (a) to (c), that the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.

Notes:

1. *The Council's ordinary committees are: Administration, Audit and Transparency, Investment, Planning and Planning Applications.*
2. *The Licensing Committee is appointed under the Licensing Act 2003, the overview and scrutiny committee is appointed under section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Health and Wellbeing board is appointed under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and is to be treated as if appointed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. None of the aforementioned committees are treated as an ordinary committee.*

1.4 The political composition of the Council is as follows:

Table 1 Political Balance

	Council	Party Group Members	Cons	K&C Lab	Lib Dems
Members	50	49	35	12	2
Percentage		100%	71.43%	24.49%	4.08%

Note

(1) One councillor has resigned from the Labour Group and sits as an independent.

2. Application of Principles

2.1 The Council must review the establishment of its committees in accordance with the principles laid down in the Act. Immediately after this is done, each political group should state the names of the councillors it wishes to take its allocated places on committees and when those wishes are known, the Council is under a duty to make the appointment of those councillors as soon as practicable. The Council appoints councillors to committees at the Annual Meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Council note that its political balance is 35 Conservative members, 12 Labour members, and two Liberal Democrats.

3.2 That the Council confirm the ratios set out in **Appendix A**.

3.3 That the Council agree the appointments to Council Committees set out in **Appendix B**.

FOR DECISION

Robert Sheppard
Head of Governance & Mayoralty

Background papers used in the preparation of this report: None other than previously published documents.

Contact officer: Douglas Campbell, douglas.campbell@rbkc.gov.uk