

Report to Full Council

30 September 2026



Urgent Decision: Committee Proportionality

Lead Member:

Cllr. Jonathan Gullis, Leader of the Council

Lead Officer:

Gordon Mole, Chief Executive

Key Decision: No

Ward(s): Town Ward

Appendices: Committee places balance calculation

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Gordon Mole	14/9/26
Monitoring Officer	Olwen Brown	
Section 151 Officer	Craig Turner	
Chief Executive	Gordon Mole	
Cabinet Member	Cllr. Jonathan Gullis	

Report Summary

It is a legal requirement under The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the 1989 Act”) imposes political proportionality requirements in respect of the allocation of seats on ordinary committees to the political groups [section 15(5)].

Under Part B1, para 5.2 (j) of the Council’s Constitution, the Chief Executive has authority to amend the proportionalities (to comply with the rules of political balance). The Chief Executive shall have the authority to amend appointments to committees in accordance with the wishes of Group Leaders.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Notes the urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive, setting out that there is no change to committee proportionality in line with the attached Appendix A to this report.
2. Notes any changes to committee representation as requested by Group Leaders.

1. Background

- 1.1. Regulation 11 (special urgency) allows for a key decision to be made if it is impracticable for notice of the intention to take a key decision under Regulation 9 to be given 28 clear days in advance of the taking of the decision.
- 1.2. This provision also allows for a Key Decision to be taken where it is impractical for public notice at least five working days before the decision is taken to be given in accordance with Regulation 10.
- 1.3. Under the Council’s Constitution, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Group Leaders and Mayor of the Council may make an urgent decision on such matters.
- 1.4. As a result of the resignation of Councillor Christine Duffy in Town Ward, the Chief Executive has considered any changes to committee proportionality.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 Following any changes to the political composition of the Council, officers undertake a review of committee proportionality. This is set out in Appendix A to this report.
- 2.2 The review of committee proportionality notes that there is a re-allocation of one committee place from the Labour group to the Conservative group.
- 2.3 The committee place falls within the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee, whose first meeting after the resignation of Cllr. Duffy falls on 17th September 2026.
- 2.4 Committee proportionality will be revisited following the by-election for Town Ward to be held on 8th October, and reported to the next Ordinary meeting of Full Council following that by-election.

3. Finance & Resources

3.1. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

4. Legal & Governance

4.1 This decision is taken in accordance with provisions for Matters of Urgency within the Council's Constitution. The urgency arises on account of the need for this decision to be taken at a time before a meeting of full Council can be convened.

4.2 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") imposes political proportionality requirements in respect of the allocation of seats on ordinary committees to the political groups [section 15(5)].

5. Supporting Information

5.1. A copy of the Committee Places Allocation Calculation – August 2026 is set out in Appendix A to this report.

