

Report for: Full Council 2nd of March 2026

Title: **Political Composition and Appointments to Committees 2025/2026**

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Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non-Key Decision:** Non-Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration.

- 1.1 Council is asked to note the change in the political balance of the Council following the notification of the resignation of Councillor Worrell from the Labour Group and resignation of Mike Hakata from the Council.
- 1.2 The Council is asked to note the ordinary Committees membership and composition as a result of the above and consider the reasoning set out at section 4 of this report.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Council is asked to:
1. Note the changes to the political balance of the Council set out at paragraph 4.3.
 2. To note the information at paragraphs 4.5 to 4.11
 3. To note that Cllr Ibrahim Ali was appointed Cabinet Member For Climate Action and Environment, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Part two Articles, paragraph 7.04, on the 12th of January 2026.

4. Background information

- 4.1 To note that Councillor Alexandra Worrell notified the: Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services Manager and Chief Executive in writing on the 5th of December that she no longer wished to be treated as a Member of the Labour Group and wished to be treated as an independent Member of the Council; this was in accordance with Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 –reg. 10(b).

4.2 On the 13th of January 2026, In accordance with Section 84(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, Cllr Mike Hakata notified the: Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services Manager and Chief Executive of his resignation from the Council as an elected member.

4.3 The political balance of the Council of 57 councillors is as follows:

Labour	43 councillors (75.45%)
Liberal Democrats	7 councillors (12.28%)
Green Socialist Alliance.	4 Councillor (7.02%)
Independent	1 Councillor (1.75%)
Independent	1 Councillor (1.75 %)
Vacancy	1 Councillor (1.75%)

4.4 The Council is required to ensure that appointments to which the statutory political balance rules apply are made in accordance with those rules. The relevant rules are summarised below (see paragraph 4.5). The Annual Meeting of the Council appoints Committees of the Council in accordance with Article 4.02(k) of the Constitution. The Council is required to comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 in terms of political balance when appointing 'ordinary' Committees – that is, Committees appointed under section 102(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4.5 These rules provide that seats on 'ordinary' Committees must be allocated in line with the following principles, so far as reasonably practicable:

- (a) that not all the seats on a body are allocated to the same political Group.
- (b) that the majority of the seats on the body are allocated to the political Group which has the majority of the Council's membership.
- (c) that, subject to principles (a) and (b) above, the proportion of seats allocated to each political Group out of the total number of seats across all the ordinary Committees of the Council shall be in the same proportion as their share of membership of the Council as a whole; and
- (d) that, subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, the number of seats on each individual body shall be allocated to each political Group in the same proportion as their share of membership of the Council as a whole.

4.6 The number of seats currently available on Ordinary Committees is 61.

Alexandra Park and Palace Board -	6 seats
Audit Committee	7 seats
General Purposes Committee	5 seats
Licensing Committee	11 seats

Pensions Committee and Board	6 seats
Strategic Planning Committee	11 seats
Standards Committee	5 seats
Appointments Panel	5 seats
Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel	5 seats
Total	61 seats

4.7 As set out on the 21 July 2025 Council Report on proportionality, seats were allocated as follows to closely meet the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 principles (a), (b), and (c) **-(48 seats to Labour, 9 to Liberal Democrat and 4 to Green Socialist Alliance)** This was calculated as follows Labour Group 48 seats $48/61 \times 100 = 78.69\%$, the Liberal Democrat Group with 9 seats $(9/61 \times 100 = 14.75\%)$ and providing the Green Socialist Alliance with 4 seats $(4/61 \times 100 = 6.56\%)$.

4.8 Although there is no legal requirement to allocate single members a seat as they do not constitute a "political Group", given the close proximity to the pre – election period which will commence on the 23rd of March, there is no change to membership of ordinary committees proposed. This will mean that the Labour group have 46 seats $(46/61 \times 100 = 75.41\%)$ which is a 0.04% less than their political composition but this still closely meets the requirements of principles (a) to (d). To note that providing an additional seat to the Liberal Democrat group would provide them with a 4.11% higher percentage allocation $(16.39 - 12.28)$ and to provide the Green Socialist Alliance group with an additional seat would mean a higher 1.18% higher allocation $(8.20 - 7.02)$ This would not closely meet Local Government and Housing Act 1989 principles (c) and (d). Therefore, the proposal for committee memberships to remain unchanged more closely meets the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, principles a to d.

Ordinary Committee	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Green Socialist Alliance	Independent single Member Cllr Worrell	Total number of seats
Alexandra Park and Palace Board	5	1	0		6
Audit Committee	4	1	1	1	7
General Purposes Committee	3	1	1		5
Licensing Committee	9	1	1		11

Pensions Committee and Board	5	1	0		6
Strategic Planning Committee	8	1	1	1	11
Standards Committee	4	1	0		5
Appointments Panel	4	1	0		5
Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel	4	1	0		5
	46	9	4	2	61

4.9 Following the resignation of Mike Hakata from the Council, the Leader of the Council appointed Cllr Ibrahim Ali, the current Chair of Standards Committee, to the Cabinet. This was in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Part 2 Articles, paragraph 7.04.

4.10 The Leader of the Labour Group and Chief Whip have notified that there will be no change in the allocation of chair and membership of the Standards Committee. Account has been given to the number of Committee meetings left in the municipal year, and legal advice sought on any conflict with the Chair of Standards taking forward both a Cabinet Member role and Chair of an Ordinary Committee until the Annual Meeting in May 2026. Guidance in the early 2000's indicated that executive members could not chair these meetings. In response it was noted that the need to establish a Standards Committee was abolished by the Localism Act 2011. Councils now simply need to have 'arrangements' for dealing with allegations of breach of the code of conduct. The LGA guidance on handling complaints confirms that Standards committees are ordinary committees of council, and therefore subject to political proportionality requirements (unless waived by Full Council). There are no statutory restrictions on membership or chairing, unlike with scrutiny committees under executive arrangements.

4.11 In calculating the allocation of seats on ordinary Committees, the following bodies were excluded because these bodies are excluded from the statutory rules on political balance:

- The Cabinet.
- The disciplinary pool.
- Licensing Sub- Committees (Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Committee).
- The Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Cabinet

4.12 The Cabinet is appointed by the Leader and may only comprise councillors from the majority party. It must have between 2 and 9 members in addition to the Leader.

Licensing Sub- Committees (Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Committee).

4.13 The Licensing Committee establishes the Licensing Sub- Committee of 3 members which will be appointed from a pool of members from the Licensing Committee. The Sub- Committee conducts the same type of business which includes the Gambling Act 2005 applications. The political balance rules do not apply to the Licensing Sub- Committees because they are appointed under the Licensing Act 2003 and so are not ordinary Committees appointed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. However, it is normal practice to establish the Licensing Sub- Committee in accordance with political balance (that is, two Labour and one Liberal Democrat Member) so far as reasonably practicable.

The Health and Wellbeing Board

4.14 The political balance rules are disapplied by the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013/218). Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board is prescribed at section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.15 Principles (a), (b) and (d) of the rules apply to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by virtue of section 9FA(6)(b) of the Local Government Act 2000. However, because the Committee is established under the Local Government Act 2000, it is not an ordinary Committee appointed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and so it is not included in the political balance calculations for the total number of seats on ordinary Committees (principle c). As such, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must be balanced, but on an individual basis.

4.16 Changes to appointments can be made at any stage during the municipal Year with the changes being reported to the Council as appropriate.

5. Statutory Officers' comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities) Finance

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report.

Director of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer

5.2 The report sets out those Council bodies to which the political balance rules apply. The 1989 Act requires political balance in the distribution of seats on Committees to be undertaken "so far as is reasonably practicable" thus recognising that a mathematically precise split between political parties cannot always be achieved.

- 5.3 In section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, principle (b) states that a party with a majority on full Council shall have a majority of seats on each individual body. This principle takes precedence over principles (c) and (d) which require political Groups to be represented on the ordinary Committees taken as a whole and on the bodies individually in proportion to their representation on Full Council.
- 5.4 Principle (c) concerning proportionate allocation of seats across all the ordinary Committees of the council takes precedence over the principle (d) concerning proportionate allocation on any individual body.
- 5.5 There is no requirement to offer a seat to a single member as they do not constitute a "political Group" under the definition in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (S.I. 1553) Regulation 8. However, further to consultation with the majority group the seat allocation is unchanged.

6. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Appointments to Committees 2025/26

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 7.1 Background documents:
 - *Appointments to Cttees 2025-26*
 - *Haringey Council's Constitution*
- 7.2 The background papers are located at George Meehan House 294 High Road Wood Green, London N22 8HQ.
- 7.3 To inspect them or to discuss this report further, please contact Ayshe Simsek on 0208 489 2929.