

Report for: Full Council 20 July 2026

Title: **Political Composition and Appointments to Committees 2026/2027 – NOC 28 Green, 21 Labour and 8 Lib Dem**

Authorised by: Fiona Alderman, Director for Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer

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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 By Election results in Northumberland Park and Woodside Ward.
- 1.2 The Council is asked to agree the subsequent changes to ordinary Committee memberships and composition as a result of the above and consider the reasoning set out at section 4 of this report.
- 1.3 To Council is also asked to note the resignation of Councillor Bethany Anderson from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was received on the 9 July 2026 and to approve the appointment of Councillor Anne Gray to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to fill the Green Group vacancy on this Committee.
- 1.4 The Council is asked to approve the addition of Councillor Andrew Reid and Councillor Edward Thacker to the Dismissal Appeal Panel Pool of members.
- 1.5 The Council is asked to approve the appointment of Councillor Elara Shurety to the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Rosie Latchord as the Green Group Member allocated representative.
- 1.6 The Council is also asked to note that the Cabinet Member for Communities will replace the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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 4.1.
2. To agree that Councillor Beckford will replace Councillor Ali on the Appointments Panel, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group, and in accordance with paragraphs 4.10 to 4.13.
3. To agree that Councillor Beckford will replace Councillor Berrick on the Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group, and in accordance with paragraphs 4.10 to 4.13.
4. To approve the appointment of Councillor Anne Gray to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to fill the Green Group Vacancy to this Committee, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group
5. To appoint Councillor Andrew Reid and Councillor Edward Thacker to the Dismissal Appeal Panel Pool giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group.
6. To appoint Councillor Elara Shurety to the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Rosie Latchord as the Green Group Member allocated representative, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group.
7. To note that the Cabinet Member for Communities will replace the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4. Background information

- 4.1 On the 20th of May, the Annual Council meeting agreed the Committee Chair and Committee memberships for the municipal year 2026/27 set out at appendix 1 and this was following an agreement of a tabled amendment to the motion on committee chairs and committee memberships. As set out at Part 4 Section B Of the Council's Constitution, the Annual meeting of the Council shall appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair(s) for every Committee, Sub-Committee and other body for the year ahead.

On the 25th of June 2026 the Council held By Elections to elect councillors to two member vacancies on the Council. Councillor Ajda Ovat was elected as the Labour Councillor for Northumberland Park Ward and Councillor Elara Shurety was elected the Green Councillor for Woodside Ward. Therefore, the political balance of the Council of 57 councillors is now as follows:

Greens	28 councillors (49.12%)
Labour	21 councillors (36.84%)
Liberal Democrats	8 Councillors (14.04%)

4.2 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 4.3). 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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

4.5 Following the result of the by elections, no political group have a majority then principle (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 will not**

apply and the membership is appointed according to principles (a), (c) and (d). These are set out above paragraph 4.3.

- 4.6 Therefore, 30 seats are allocated to the Green Group ($30/61 \times 100 = 49.18\%$) and this is as close as possible to the group's proportion of Council membership (+ 0.06 variance)
- 4.7 There are 22 seats to the Labour Group ($22/61 \times 100 = 36.06\%$) and this is as close as possible to the group's proportion of Council membership (- 0.78 variance).
- 4.8 There are 9 seats allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group $9/61 \times 100 = 14.75$ and this is as close as possible to the groups proportion of Council membership (variance of + 0.71)
- 4.9 The seat allocation more closely meets principle (a), (c) and (d). To note that 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.
- 4.10 According to the above allocation set out at paragraphs 4.6 to 4.8, all 3 groups get as close as possible percentage share of the Council. If the Green Group were to be allocated 29 seats, they would then get a 1.58% lower percentage than their membership share. Labour would get 23 seats, and this would be a 0.86% higher allocation ($23/61 = 37.70$ and $37.70 - 36.84 = 0.86$). If you provide the Liberal Democrat group with 8 seats rather than 9 the Liberal Democrat group would have a 0.93 lower percentage share. The Liberal Democrat group would also have a committee that they do not have a seat on, not meeting principle d.**
- 4.11 Therefore, the calculations set out at paragraphs 4.6 to 4.8 more closely meet each group's percentage of council members set out at paragraph 4.1.
- 4.12 Therefore, the allocation set out at below is proposed as this more closely meets Local Government and Housing Act 1989 principles (a), (c) and (d).

Ordinary Committee	Green	Lab	Lib Dem	Total number of seats
Alexandra Park and Palace Board	3	2	1	6
Audit Committee	3	3	1	7
General Purposes Committee	2	2	1	5

Licensing Committee	6	4	1	11
Pensions Committee and Board	3	2	1	6
Strategic Planning Committee	5	5	1	11
Standards Committee	2	2	1	5
Appointments Panel	3	1	1	5
Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel	3	1	1	5
	30	22	9	61

4.13 This means that one Labour member from the Appointments Panel and one Labour member from the Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel need to be replaced by Green political group councillors. Given the Appointments Panel and Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel remits have strong connections with policy making and ensuring the delivery of council services, and this is mainly a responsibility of the minority administration, it is proposed that Councillor Beckford replace Councillor Ali on the Appointments Panel and Councillor Beckford replace Councillor Berrick on the Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel. The Chair and Vice Chair of General Purposes are prescribed as members of these Panels. Councillor Beckford can be substituted by other Cabinet Members on these Panels.

4.14 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

- 4.14 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).

- 4.15 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 so far as reasonably practicable.

The Health and Wellbeing Board

- 4.16 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

- 4.17 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. Therefore, according to the proportionality rules and balancing this, and noting that there are 5 seats on this Committee, this is applied as follows:

- **Two seats allocated to the Green Group ($5/100 \times 49.12 = 2.45$ and rounded to the nearest whole number is 2 Seats.**
- **Two seats allocated to the Labour group ($5/100 \times 48.84 = 1.84$ and rounded to the nearest whole number =2.**
- **one seat to the Liberal Democrat Group. $5/100 \times 14.04 = 0.7$ and rounded to the nearest whole number is 1.**

- 4.18 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 would usually take 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. However, as there is no majority this principle does not apply.
- 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.

6. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Appointments to Committees 2026/27

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 7.1 Background documents:
 - *Appointments to Cttees 2026/27*
 - *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.