

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DECISION

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

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meeting date: TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023  
title: REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: JENNY MARTIN

### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To revise the Council's current committee arrangements following a review of the political balance calculation.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's objectives and priorities –

Council's Objectives – whilst the Council's committee arrangements do not contribute directly to the achievement of the Council's objectives, they set the framework for the Council's decision-making processes.

Other considerations – the Council decided under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, after consultation with the electorate, to retain its committee arrangements rather than opt for an executive form of governance. This decision has been reconsidered and confirmed by the Policy & Finance committee.

### 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The basis of the Council's present committee structure was approved by the Policy and Finance Committee at its meeting on 3 April 2008.

2.2 The number of seats on each committee and the allocation of these seats is calculated in accordance with the political balance provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2.3 The political balance was recalculated and approved at the Annual Council on 23 May 2023. It is now necessary to make a number of changes to that committee membership.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 On 12 October 2023 Councillor Derek Brocklehurst formally gave notice that he had ceased to be a member of the Conservative group and now joined the Labour group.

3.2 On 24 November 2023 Councillors Fletcher, French, and Corney gave notice that they had left the Liberal Democrat group and created a new group – The Progressive Liberal group.

3.3 The calculation of seats after these changes is attached at Appendix A.

3.4 The new membership on committees following the recalculation is being discussed with group leaders and will be circulated once available.

### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

Resources – the estimated costs of administering the committee arrangements in 2023/2024 are included in the approved budget for 2021/2022.

Technical, Environment and Legal – none.

Political – none.

Reputation – none.

**5 RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL**

- 5.1 Approves the allocation of committee seats as set out in Appendix A and confirms the appointment of members to committees.

JENNY MARTIN  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1 Agenda for Annual Meeting of Council 23 May 2023
- 2 Agenda for Annual Meeting of Council 11 July 2023

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