

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)
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Relevant Executive Member:	n/a
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Submitted to:	Council
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Date:	9 July 2025
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Title:	Revised Political Balance Allocation of Committee Places 2025-2026
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Report for:	Decision
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
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Key decision:	No
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Why:	Decision does not reach the threshold to be a key decision
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Subject to call in?	No
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Why:	Not applicable – Council Decision
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Proposed decision(s)													
That Council approves:													
1.	<p>the revised allocation of seats on Committees that are subject to the rules relating to political balance as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Labour</td><td>69 places</td></tr> <tr> <td>Conservative</td><td>11 places</td></tr> <tr> <td>Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)</td><td>29 places</td></tr> <tr> <td>Liberal Democrat</td><td>6 places</td></tr> <tr> <td>Marton East Independent Group (MEIG)</td><td>6 places</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unallocated</td><td>11 places</td></tr> </table>	Labour	69 places	Conservative	11 places	Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)	29 places	Liberal Democrat	6 places	Marton East Independent Group (MEIG)	6 places	Unallocated	11 places
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Unallocated	11 places												
2.	that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to fill the unallocated seats as indicated in paragraph 4.4 of the report and make any necessary further adjustments to remove or replace Members where directed by the relevant Group or Member.												

3. that nominations for the vacant places be sought and, where necessary voted upon.
4. That any committee established prior to the next review be appointed on the basis of the places shown in Appendix 1, Table 3, attached to the report.

Executive summary

A report was presented to the Annual Meeting of Council detailing the political balance of the authority as at 21 May 2025. Since that time, there has been a change in group membership and the political balance of the Council therefore needs to be revised. The rules, duties, and principles outlined in the report to the Annual Meeting remain applicable.

The report seeks Council approval for the revised allocation of places on committees and sub committees for the Municipal Year 2025-2026 in accordance with the current political balance of the Council. The decision is recommended to ensure that places on committees are allocated in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

- 1.1 To seek approval for the revised allocation of places on committees and sub committees for the Municipal Year 2025-2026 in accordance with the current political balance of the Council.

1.2

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	Having all the Committees politically balanced will ensure that the broad range of views are considered when making decisions around the delivery of this ambition.
A healthy Place	
Safe and resilient communities	
Delivering best value	This report will contribute towards the Council Plan ambition to deliver best value by ensuring robust and effective corporate governance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council:

Approves:

- the revised allocation of seats on Committees that are subject to the rules relating to political balance as follows:

Labour	69 places
Conservative	11 places
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)	29 places
Liberal Democrat	6 places
Marton East Independent Group (MEIG)	6 places
Unallocated	11 places

- that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to fill the unallocated seats as indicated in paragraph 4.4 of the report and make any necessary further adjustments to remove or replace Members where directed by the relevant Group or Member.
- that nominations for the vacant places be sought and, where necessary voted upon.
- That any committee established prior to the next review be appointed on the basis of the places shown in Appendix 1, Table 3, attached to the report.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 The decision is recommended to ensure that places on committees are allocated in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

4. Background and relevant information

- 4.1 A report was presented to the Annual Meeting of Council detailing the political balance of the authority as at 21 May 2025. Since that time, there has been a change in group membership and the political balance of the Council therefore needs to be revised. The rules, duties, and principles outlined in the report to the Annual Meeting remain applicable.
- 4.2 As a result of changes in groups, the total number of places on committees and sub-committees to be allocated in accordance with the political balance of the Council remains at **132**, but the individual allocations to groups are now as follows:

Labour	69 places
Conservative	11 places
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)	29 places
Liberal Democrat	6 places
Marton East Independent Group (MEIG)	6 places
Unallocated	11 places

- 4.3 Previously, the MICA Group had an allocation of 34 places and there was an allocation of 6 unallocated places for those Members not in a political group. Members have been asked to identify their preference for seats on available Committees.

- 4.4 As a result of the above, there are now unallocated seats on the following Committees:

Planning and Development Committee – 2 vacancies
 Licensing Committee – 1 vacancy
 Overview and Scrutiny Board – 1 vacancy
 Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel – 1 vacancy

and nominations for those unallocated places are now sought.

- 4.5 In line with usual practice, it is recommended that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend memberships of committees following resignations received from members and to appoint to vacancies in accordance with group preferences or, where not in a group, in accordance with individual Member's wishes. However, where more than one person (non-group members) applies for the same place, they should decide amongst themselves how those places should be allocated. If agreement cannot be reached between the individual Members, the Council will make that determination.

5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

- 6.1 Do Nothing - The Council must ensure that places on committees are allocated in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications or impact on any budgets or the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) arising from the content of this report.
Legal	The Council must adhere to the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
Risk	If the Council does not respond effectively and efficiently to legislation it could be in breach of statutory duties in relation to service delivery and fail to make the most of opportunities. The Council is obliged to comply with any legislation or statutory guidance to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its statutory duties.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.
Reducing Poverty	Not applicable as this is a technical report about committee places and does not change any policy.

Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable as this is a technical report about committee places and does not change any policy.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Not applicable as this is a technical report about committee places and does not change any policy.
Data Protection	Not applicable as this is a technical report about committee places and does not change any policy.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Allocate places on committees according to the Political Balance.	Democratic Services Manager	31 July 2025

Appendices

1	<p>Step 1 - Total places on those committees subject to rules of proportionality.</p> <p>Step 2 - Calculate overall proportionality for all eligible committees.</p> <p>Step 3 - Political balance according to size of committee.</p> <p>Step 4 – Application of figures in Table 3 to each committee.</p>
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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