

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT



COMMITTEE	FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE OF MEETING	23 FEBRUARY 2026
SUBJECT	PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES
LEAD OFFICER	GRAHAM BRITTEN, MONITORING OFFICER
LEAD MEMBER	N/A
EXEMPT INFORMATION	PART I
ACTION	DECISION

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Since the annual meeting on 30 June 2025, a change to the political balance and composition of Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM) council occurred.
- 1.2 RBWM has three seats on the Authority. The change in political balance has seen the appointment of a Conservative Member (Councillor Genevieve Gosling) onto the Authority, replacing an Independent Member (Councillor Knowles).
- 1.3 Following a change to the membership of the political groups on the Authority, it is required to review the allocation of seats on committees as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 1.4 This report recommends that the Authority agrees the proportionality as set out below and appoints Conservative Members to its committees in accordance with their Group Leader's wishes.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Authority:

- 2.1 **AGREE** the political proportionality of the Authority as detailed in Table 1 and the allocation of seats on its committees as detailed in Tables 3 and 4;
- 2.2 **APPOINT** Conservative Members onto its committees in accordance with their Conservative Group Leader's wishes;

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- 2.3 **NOTE** Councillor Knowles's membership on the Fire Authority ended on 20 January 2026.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 On 20 January 2026, RBWM council appointed Councillor Gosling onto the Fire Authority following a change in political balance and composition of the council.
- 3.2 Table 1 illustrates the political balance of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA).

Table 1 - Total number of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Members

	Number of seats on RBFA	% of seats on RBFA
Liberal Democrats	8	40%
Labour	6	30%
Conservative	5	25%
Green (ungrouped)	1	
Total	20	

- 3.3 Tables 2 shows the number of Fire Authority seats per Unitary Authority.

Table 2 – Total number of Fire Authority seats per Unitary Authority

Unitary Authority	Seats
Bracknell	3
Reading	3
Slough	3
RBWM	3
West Berks	4
Wokingham	4
Total	20

- 3.4 On the assumption that Councillor Gosling will affiliate with the Conservative Group the allocation of seats on the Audit and Governance Committee is set out below in Table 3 (unchanged from the Authority's Annual Meeting)

Table 3 - Total number of places on Audit and Governance Committee

	Number of seats on RBFA	% of seats on RBFA	Seat Allocation	Seats Audit and Governance Committee
Liberal Democrats	8	40%	3.6	4
Labour	6	30%	2.7	3
Conservative	5	25%	2.25	2
Green (ungrouped)	1			0
Total	20			9

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- 3.5 On the assumption that Councillor Gosling will affiliate with the Conservative Group the allocation of seats on the Management Committee is set out below in Table 4 .

Table 4 - Total number of places on Management Committee

	Number of seats on RBFA	% of seats on RBFA	Seat Allocation	Seats Management Committee
Liberal Democrats	8	40%	4.4	4
Labour	6	30%	3.3	3
Conservative	5	25%	2.75	3
Green (ungrouped)	1			1
	20			11

Table 5 – Members on Committees

Audit and Governance Committee (9 seats)	1. (Lib Dem) Councillor Mohammed Nazir 2. (Lib Dem) Councillor NG Siu-hong 3. (Lib Dem) Councillor Owen Jeffery 4. (Lib Dem) Councillor Billy Drummond 5. (Lab) Councillor Greg Bello 6. (Lab) Councillor Tricia Brown 7. (Lab) Councillor Dilbagh Parmar 8. (Con) to be confirmed 9. (Con) to be confirmed
Management Committee (11 seats)	1. (Lib Dem) Councillor Jeff Brooks 2. (Lib Dem) Councillor George Blundell 3. (Lib Dem) Councillor Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey 4. (Lib Dem) Councillor Simon Werner 5. (Lab) Councillor Paul Gittings 6. (Lab) Councillor Wendy Griffith 7. (Lab) Councillor Peter Frewer 8. (Con) To be confirmed 9. (Con) To be confirmed 10. (Con) To be confirmed 11. (Green) Councillor Dave McElroy

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- 3.6 Set out above are tables which indicate the overall allocation of Authority places per political group and the total number of places each group would be allocated subject to confirmation that all of the political groupings remaining affiliated by political party alone.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Authority's Scheme of Allowances provides that 'MA6. Where a Member's term of office does not extend throughout a complete year, the amount payable shall be pro rata to the number of days during which his/her term of office subsists.'

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The function of deciding the political balance of committees and making appointments to them is reserved to the full Authority. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Authority to allocate seats on committees to political groups, in accordance with the size of each group on the Authority as a whole, unless alternative arrangements are notified to all councillors and agreed without any councillor voting against them. The Authority is also required to make appointments to committees in accordance with the wishes of the political group to which each seat has been allocated and to exercise its power to make appointments to secure that the ungrouped members have seats on committees

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None

9. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None

10. CONSISTENCY WITH DUTY TO COLLABORATE

- 10.1 Not applicable.

11. PRINCIPAL CONSULTATION

- 11.1 Monitoring Officer.

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12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 [Appointment of Councillor Gosling to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority](#)

12.2 [Members' Scheme of Allowances](#)

13. APPENDICES

13.1 None.

14. CONTACT DETAILS

14.1 Michaela Smith, Democratic Services Officer, 07799 287706

14.2 Fayth Rowe, Executive Services Manager, 07500 991975