



Council

21 May 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:

Not applicable

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

Ward(s) affected:

Not applicable

Title:

Political Proportionality 2026/27, Amendments to the Constitution in Relation to Quorum, Appointment of Council Bodies and Outside Bodies and approval of the Scheme of Delegation

Is this a key decision? No

Executive summary:

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposed allocation of seats on Council bodies to the Political Groups following the recent local election on 7 May 2026 (Appendix 1). The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the positions on bodies of the Council are allocated in accordance with the overall proportion of seats held by the Political Groups across the Council. This requirement applies to Scrutiny Boards, the Statutory Committees of the City Council and certain outside bodies to which the Council appoints, where specified. The requirement does not apply to Cabinet, Sub Committees of Cabinet (Coventry Shareholders Committee) or the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.2 As the political proportionality allocations reduces the size of the Scrutiny Boards from 9 Members to 6 Members, it is proposed to reduce the size of the Quorum of Scrutiny Boards to 3 Members.
- 1.3 Due to the timescales and in order to facilitate the meeting of those bodies, it is proposed that the nomination of Members to sit on the Council Bodies listed in Appendix 1 (including the Chairs and Deputy Chairs where appropriate) and the Outside Bodies that the Council appoints to each year, is delegated to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities following consultation with the Leader and the relevant Group

Leaders and that a report detailing all of the appointments be submitted to the next Council meeting.

- 1.4 The report also seeks approval to the Scheme of Delegation to officers as set out in the Constitution.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:-

1. **Approve the allocation of seats on Council bodies in accordance with the requirements of political proportionality as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and the establishment of those Council bodies, and the terms of reference for those bodies as set out in the Constitution.**
2. **That, following a change to the size of Scrutiny Boards in line with the requirements of political proportionality, approval be given to amend the quorum of the Scrutiny Boards to 3 Members and that authority to amend the Constitution accordingly be delegated to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities.**
3. **That the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities be delegated authority to appoint to those Council bodies, including the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair (where appropriate), and Outside Bodies in accordance with the proportionality as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, following consultation with the Leader and the Group Leaders and that a report detailing all of the appointments to Council Bodies and Outside Bodies be submitted to the next meeting of the City Council.**
4. **Approve the Scheme of Delegation as set out in the Constitution.**

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 - Political Proportionality 2026-27

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 21 May, 2026

Report title: Political Proportionality 2026/27

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The local election held earlier this month resulted in changes to the political balance on the City Council. Accordingly, the allocation of seats on Council bodies needs to be amended. The requirement to allocate seats according to the proportional political balance of the Council also applies to certain Outside Bodies to which the City Council appoints representatives.
- 1.2 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires authorities to review the representation of different Political Groups on its bodies at various times and one of these is at the Annual Meeting. In carrying out a review, the Act requires the authority to follow four principles. These are:-
- That not all the seats on a body are allocated to the same Political Group.
 - That the majority of seats on a body should go to the Political Group which has a majority overall on the Council.
 - That subject to these two principles, the total number of seats held by a Political Group should be the same as the proportion on full Council.
 - That subject to all these principles, the number of seats on each body should be proportional to the overall proportion of the Political Group of the Council.
- 1.3 When undertaking its duty under this part of the Act, the City Council is obliged to only make those determinations which give effect, as far as reasonably practicable, to the principles set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The proposed allocation of seats on Council bodies is detailed in the Appendix to this report and reflects the following political proportionality:-

Group	No of Seats	Proportional Entitlement
Labour	24	44.44 %
Reform	20	37.04 %
Conservative	6	11.11 %
Green	4	7.41 %

- 2.2 The proportional entitlement to positions has been calculated in accordance with the overall number and size of bodies requested by the Labour Group who have the most seats.

2.3 It is proposed that places on Council bodies are allocated in accordance with the proportional political balance specified in Appendix 1 attached to this report.

2.4 As there is a reduction in the size of the Membership Scrutiny Boards, it is proposed to amend the quorum for the Scrutiny Boards from 4 Members to 3 Members.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 All Political Groups represented on the Council have been consulted on the proposals detailed in this report.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 This decision will be implemented once approved by Council on 21 May 2026. Due to the timescales, it is proposed to delegate authority to appoint to the Council Bodies and Outside Bodies to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, following consultation with the appropriate Group Leader. A report on the appointments to Council Bodies and Outside Bodies will be made to the next Council meeting.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

5.1. Financial Implications

There is no direct financial implication arising from this report.

5.2. Legal Implications

The proposals comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the principles set out in paragraph 1.2.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

Not applicable.

How is risk being managed?

Not applicable.

6.2. What is the impact on the organisation?

Not applicable.

6.3. Equalities / EIA?

Not applicable

6.4. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

Not applicable

6.5. Implications for partner organisations?

Not applicable.

Report author(s):

Name Suzanne Bennett

Title Governance Services Co-ordinator

Service Area:

Law, Governance and Safer Communities

Tel and email contact:

Email: Suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	20/5/26	20/5/26
Adrain West	Head of Governance	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	20/5/26	20/5/26
Other Members				
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Resources	Finance and Resources	20/5/26	20/5/26
Legal and Relevant Director : Julie Newman	Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	20/5/26	20/5/26

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