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| Council name                | <b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>  |
| Name and date of Committee  | <b>COUNCIL – 18 MARCH 2026</b>  |
| Subject                     | <b>REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITIES</b>  |
| Wards affected              | None  |
| Accountable member          | Councillor Mike Evely, Leader of the Council<br>Email: <a href="mailto:Mike.Evely@Cotswold.gov.uk">Mike.Evely@Cotswold.gov.uk</a>   |
| Accountable officer         | Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development<br>Email: <a href="mailto:Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk">Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk</a>  |
| Report author               | Andrew Brown, Head of Democratic and Electoral Services<br>Email: <a href="mailto:Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk">Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk</a>  |
| Summary/Purpose             | To review the political proportionalities on committees following receipt of a notice that a member has joined a group.   |
| Annexes                     | Annex A – Political proportionalities on committees (to follow)   |
| Recommendation(s)           | That Council resolves to:<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Agree the political proportionalities as set out in Annex A.</li><li>2. Appoint to any vacant seats on committees in accordance with the wishes of the political group to which the seat has been allocated, as expressed at the meeting.</li></ol> |
| Corporate priorities        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivering Good Services</li><li>• Supporting Communities</li></ul>   |
| Key Decision                | NO  |
| Exempt                      | NO  |
| Consultees/<br>Consultation | None  |



## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report invites Council to review the political proportionalities on committees and appoint to any vacant seats following the by-elections held in The Rissingtons and The Beeches wards.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act") requires the Council to allocate Committee seats to political groups, in proportion to the size of those groups on the Council. The requirement is for the representation of each group to be proportional on each committee, and on the total number of seats on committees overall.
- 2.2** Under Section 17 of The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Council has a duty to review the allocation seats on committees as soon as practicable after a notice is received by the Proper Officer confirming that a member has joined a political group and that a review of the allocation of seats is requested, provided the notice is received at least one month after the previous review.

## **3. REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITIES**

- 3.1** Following the by-election held on 22 January 2026 for The Rissingtons ward, a notice was received by the Proper Officer confirming that Councillor Craig Thurling had joined the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council. A further written notice was received on 4 March 2026 requesting that full Council on 18 March 2026 undertakes a review of the political proportionalities on committees.
- 3.2** A further by-election is taking place to elect a councillor for The Beeches ward on 12 March 2026 (between the publication of the Council papers and the date of the meeting). As such, the updated political proportionalities will be circulated separately once the outcome of the by-election is known and the newly elected councillor has had an opportunity to consider whether or not they wish to join a political group.
- 3.3** Annex A shows the proportionalities on committees with changes since the previous review was undertaken at the 21 May 2025 Annual Council meeting.



**3.4** Where there are changes to be made to the membership of committees, the relevant group leaders are asked to announce the nominated members at the 18 March 2026 Council meeting.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

**4.1.** The Council has a duty to review the allocation of seats on committees when a review is triggered, and to appoint to committees based on political proportionality and the wishes of political groups.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** There are no financial implications arising directly from the information in this report.

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**6.1** The legal issues are set out in the body of the report.

#### **7. RISK ASSESSMENT**

**7.1** There is a risk that if committees are not properly appointed this could result in a delay in decision making for the Council or increase the risk of decisions being successfully challenged.

#### **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

**8.1** There are no differential impacts on groups with protected characteristics.

#### **9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS**

**9.1** There are no climate and ecological emergencies implications.

#### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**10.1** None.

(END)