



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# **COUNCIL ADDENDUM 3**

**4.30PM, THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2026**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**



# ADDENDUM

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**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL**

**3.30pm 18 DECEMBER 2025**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Grimshaw (Chair), Asaduzzaman, Atkinson, Alexander, Allen, Bagaeen, Czolak, Daniel, Earthey, Fishleigh, Fowler, Galvin, Goddard, Helliwell, Hewitt, Lademacher, Mackey, McGregor, McLeay, Miller, Muten, Nann, Oliveira, Parrott, Pickett, Robins, Robinson, Rowkins, Sankey, Shanks, Sheard, Simon, Sykes, Taylor, Thomson and West

**PART ONE**

**1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1.1 There were no declarations of interests made in matters appearing on the agenda.

**2 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.**

2.1 There were no Mayor's communications.

**3 HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY**

3.1 The Mayor advised that this item of business related to the proposal to consider admitting Emily Kenward and Mesfin Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis to be Honorary Freewoman and Freeman of the City of Brighton & Hove respectively.

3.2 Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council, formally moved the motion to admit Emily Kenward as an Honorary Freewoman of the City, in recognition and appreciation of her outstanding and lasting contribution to the life of the city through founding the befriending charity Time to Talk Befriending. The motion was seconded by Councillor Czolak.

3.4 Councillors Czolak and Lademacher spoke on the matter.

3.5 Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council, formally moved the motion to admit Mesfin Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis as an Honorary Freeman of the City, in recognition and appreciation of his 37 years of service to the Council, during which he championed race equality, demonstrated outstanding public service, and passionately supported and promoted local democracy. The motion was seconded by Councillor Robins.

3.6 Councillors Robins and Shanks spoke on the matter.

3.7 The Mayor put the recommendations as set out in the report to the vote.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That Emily Kenward be appointed an Honorary Freewoman of the City of Brighton and Hove.
- 2) That Mesfin Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis be appointed an Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove.

**4 CLOSE OF MEETING**

4.1 The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 4.04pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2025

# Brighton & Hove City Council

## CABINET

2.00pm 11 DECEMBER 2025

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor Sankey (Chair) Taylor (Deputy Chair), Alexander, Allen, Daniel, Miller, Muten, Robins, Rowkins, Williams, Nann and Robinson

### PART ONE

#### **40 OUR CITY TRANSPORT PLAN 2035**

- 40.1 Cabinet considered a report that updated Members on the development of Our City Transport Plan 2035, with a focus on the changes made to the draft document following public consultation. The adoption of Our City Transport Plan 2035 as a council policy would deliver on a commitment made in the Council Plan 2023-27, to develop and launch a new ten-year strategy setting out a long-term vision for the city's transport network and a pipeline of transport projects to deliver this vision.
- 40.2 Councillors Muten, Rowkins, Allen, Robins, Miller and Alexander asked questions and contributed to the debate of the report.
- 40.3 **Resolved-**
- 1) Cabinet agrees to adopt Our City Transport Plan 2035 (Appendix 1) as the city's over-arching transport policy.

The meeting concluded at 5.53pm



# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Council

## Agenda Item 82

**Subject:** Review of Political Balance 2025/26

**Date of meeting:** 29 January 2026

**Report of:** Chief Executive

**Contact Officer:** Name: Anthony Soyinka  
Tel: 01273 29 1006  
Email: [Anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:Anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### For general release

Note: Urgency

By reason of the special circumstances below, and in accordance with section 100B(4)(b) of the 1972 Act, the Chair of the meeting has been consulted and is of the opinion that this item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Reasons for urgency

The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that ongoing discussions with the Groups were not concluded in time for the report to be included in the agenda.

### 1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The Council is required to review the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub Committees where there is a change to the membership of the political groups in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to appoint and/or re-appoint the Committees, Sub-Committees, Joint Committees, Boards, Forums and Panels of the Council and membership thereof and to appoint council representatives to various outside bodies for the 2025/26 municipal year.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council appoints/re-appoints its committees with the sizes and allocation of seats between political groups as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2.2 That having received nominations to the committees from the 4 political groups, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, such nominations be agreed, and the committee places filled accordingly.

- 2.3 That Councillor Tobias Sheard be appointed as Deputy Chair of Planning Committee.
- 2.4 That Councillor Kerry Pickett be appointed to the Planning Committee.
- 2.5 That Council appoints/reappoints Members/representatives to various bodies as listed in Appendix 3 of the report.
- 2.6 That the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer be authorised to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the recommendations in this report and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend and republish the Council's constitutional documents to incorporate the changes.

### **3. Context and background information**

- 3.1 In January 2026, the Chief Executive, acting as the proper officer, received notification that Councillor Bruno De Oliveira, an Independent Member, had joined the Green Group. The political composition of the Council is therefore now: Labour (34 Members), Green (10 Members), Conservative (5 Members), Brighton & Hove Independent Group (2 Members) and 3 Independent Members. Section 15(1) of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review the representation of the different political groups on committees and sub-committees:
  - At, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting of the Council or,
  - Where notice is received of a change in the composition of political groups.
- 3.2 The Chief Executive is under duty, whenever such a review takes place, to submit a report to the Council showing what allocation of seats would in their opinion best meet the requirements of Section 15 of the 1989 Act.
- 3.3 The Council's duty to determine the allocation of seats is prescribed by Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (specifically sub section (3) to (5)). The legislation does not impose any specific requirement on the Council to consult the political groups as to which committee seats should be allocated to which group – this only applies to the actual appointment of Members to particular seats once they are allocated to political groups.
- 3.4 It is clearly preferable if all Groups have an agreed position as to which committee allocations are to be adjusted, provided that the agreed position does not conflict with the Council's duty, which is “to make only such determinations as give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the principles specified in sub-section (5).”
  - 3.4.1 In summary, these principles of determination (“principles”), are that:
    - a) All seats are not allocated to the same Group,

- b) The majority of the seats go to the Group (if any) which has an overall majority on the Council (i.e. more than 27 seats),
- c) In accordance with the two principles stated above, the total number of seats assigned to each Group across all committees and sub-committees should reflect their proportionate representation on the Full Council and
- d) Subject to provisions (a) and (c), the allocation of seats on each committee or sub-committee to each Group shall reflect the proportionate representation of that Group on the Full Council.

### **Overall Political Group split on the Council**

- 3.5 The political groups have the following seats on the Council and there are 63 seats across all committees to be allocated:

<b>Party</b>	<b>Seats on the Council</b>	<b>Initial Allocation (rounded)</b>	<b>Initial Allocation</b>
Labour	34	39.67 (40)	<b>40</b>
Green	10	11.67 (12)	<b>12</b>
Conservative	5	5.83 (6)	<b>6</b>
Brighton & Hove Independents	2	2.33 (2)	<b>2</b>
Independent	1	1.17 (1)	<b>1</b>
Independent	1	1.17 (1)	<b>1</b>
Independent	1	1.17 (1)	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>		<b>63</b>

### **Committee Sizes and Review of Committees**

- 3.6 The total number of Committee places (excluding sub-committees) used for the determination of the allocation of seats to the political groups is 63 as detailed in Appendix 1. (Note that the Political Balance Regulations do not apply to the Cabinet, Licensing Committee (2003 Act) or the Health and Wellbeing Board).
- 3.7 The proposed allocation of places on each of the committees as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report takes into account the principles referred to in paragraph 3.4.1 in that:
- a) The Labour Group's overall allocation equals 40 seats,
  - b) The Green Group's overall allocation equals 12 seats,
  - c) The Conservative Group's overall allocation equals 6 seats,
  - d) The Brighton & Hove Independents equals 2 seats and
  - e) That in having regard to the convention that the Council has abided to whenever there has been an Independent Member, one seat is offered to each of the 3 Independent Members.
- 3.8 The allocations in 3.7 above provide the Labour Group, Green Group, Conservative Group and Brighton & Hove Independent Groups with

allocations in accordance with their initial calculations. This outcome incorporates the Council's decision to offer 1 seat to each of the 3 Independent Members and ensures that all committees have a full membership.

#### **4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options**

- 4.1 The proposed committee allocations have been raised with the respective Group Leaders and are in keeping with the Regulations governing the political balance of committees.

#### **5. Community engagement and consultation**

- 5.1 The Leaders of the four political groups have been consulted on the proposed allocations.

#### **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Name of finance officer consulted: Ishemupenyu Chagonda Date consulted 21.01.26

#### **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 The proposals in this report comply with Section 15(1) of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, which sets out the duty and principles regarding the allocation of seats to political groups.

Name of lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date consulted: 21.01.26

#### **8. Risk implications**

- 8.1 The risk implications of not supporting the requested decisions would be a breach of statutory duty to comply with the requirements of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report and could expose the council to legal challenges or intervention the Secretary of State.
- 8.2 Decisions made by committees/sub committees could be challenged if those meetings are deemed to be unlawfully constituted.
- 8.3 Lack of political balance may lead to accusations of bias, undermining trust in the decision-making processes of the Council.
- 8.4 To address risks of non-compliance with the requirements of the Act consultations on the proposed allocations of seats were held in advance with all four political group leaders represented on the council.

## **9. Equalities implications**

- 9.1 The Regulations provide for the distribution of seats amongst the political groups on an equitable basis.

## **10. Sustainability implications**

- 10.1 There are no sustainability issues arising from the report.

## **11. Conclusion**

- 11.1 Having taken into consideration the number of committees and seats available for the distribution of places between the four Groups represented on the Council, the allocations proposed are considered to be the most compatible with the requirement of the Regulations.

## **Supporting Documentation**

### **1. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Committee seat allocations

Appendix 2 - Committee membership nominations;

Appendix 3 - Appointments to Council, Outside Bodies and Partnerships



## ALLOCATIONS OF COMMITTEES

Appendix 1

Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Joint Committees	No. Seats	Labour	Green	Conservative	Brighton & Hove Independents	Independent
Audit, Standards & General Purposes	8	5	1	1		1
Licensing*	15	10	3	1		1
Planning	10	<del>7</del> 6	<del>1</del> 2	1	1	
Health Overview & Scrutiny	10	6	2	1		1
People – Scrutiny	10	7	2	1		
Place – Scrutiny	10	6	2	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>41 40</b>	<b>11 12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

Other Bodies Not included in the equation for the allocation of seats:	No. Seats	Labour	Green	Conservative	B&H Independent	Independent
Health & Wellbeing Board	3	3				
Corporate Parenting Board	5	4	1			
Licensing Panels	3	2	1			

<b>Joint Committees</b>						
<b>Greater Brighton Economic Board</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>				
<b>Sussex Health Care Assembly</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>				

## MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES &amp; SUB-COMMITTEES 2025/2026

## OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEES:

## HEALTH OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (10)

Labour Group (6 Members)	Green Group (2 Member)	Conservative Group (1 Member)	Brighton & Hove Independents (1 Member)	Independent Member (1 Member)	Other Members/Co-Optees
<b>Cllr Gary Wilkinson (Chair)</b> Cllr Amanda Evans (Deputy Chair) Cllr Jackie O'Quinn Cllr Jacqui Simon Cllr Sam Parrott Cllr Theresa Mackey	Cllr Raphael Hill Cllr Marina Lademacher	Cllr Emma Hogan		<b><i>Cllr Ty Galvin (from 29 January 2026)</i></b>	Geoffrey Bowden - Healthwatch Nora Mzaoui, - Community & Voluntary Sector <b><i>Mary Davies – Older People's Council (from 29 January 2026)</i></b> VACANT - Youth Council

**PLACE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (10)**

<b>Labour Group (6 Members)</b>	<b>Green Group (2 Members)</b>	<b>Conservative Group (1 Member)</b>	<b>Brighton &amp; Hove Independents (1 Member)</b>	<b>Independent Member</b>	<b>Other Members/Co-Optees</b>
<b>Cllr Amanda Evans (Chair)</b> Cllr Julie Cattell (Deputy Chair) Cllr Maureen Winder Cllr Theresa Mackey Cllr Ty Goddard Cllr Theresa Fowler	Cllr Kerry Pickett Cllr Ollie Sykes	Cllr Anne Meadows	Cllr Bridget Fishleigh		<i><b>Bernadette Kent - Older People's Council (from 29 January 2026)</b></i>  Mark Strong - Community & Voluntary Sector  Maya McDevitt - Youth Council

Newly appointed members are highlighted in bold, red italics and underlined as shown below:

	Appointments to Outside Bodies:		Term of Office	Allocations	Nominations May 2025/26	Status / End of term
16	<b>The Royal Pavilion Trust Board (3)</b>	3 members appointed to the board.	3 Years	2L, 1G	Alan Robins <i><u>Alison Thomson (from 29 January 2026)</u></i> Sue Shanks	<b>May 2027</b>

