18.—(1) Where 2 or more persons are to be appointed by a local authority to a body to which this paragraph applies, then—

(a) any group of members who are present at the meeting at the time when the business of making the appointments is reached and comprising the number of members necessary for the purposes of this paragraph may nominate a person to be a member of that body and the person shall be so appointed on that nomination without any vote being taken, and

(b) the members of the body then remaining to be appointed shall be appointed successively by the members of the local authority who are not members of any group referred to in clause (a) and who were present at the meeting at the time when the business of making the appointments was reached.

(2) (a) Subject to clause (b) the number of members necessary to form a group for the purposes of this paragraph shall be obtained by dividing the total number of members present at the meeting of the authority at the time when the business of making the relevant appointments is reached by the number of the appointments to be so made, or, where the number so obtained is not a whole number, the whole number next above the number so obtained.

(b) No member of a local authority shall be a member of more than one group for the purposes of this paragraph.

(3) This paragraph applies to the following bodies:

(a) a committee of a local authority;

(b) a joint committee or joint body of one or more local authorities;

(c) a vocational education committee within the meaning of the Vocational Education Act, 1930;

(d) a harbour authority within the meaning of the Harbours Act, 1946;

(e) a school attendance committee within the meaning of the School Attendance Act, 1926;

(f) a regional authority established by order under section 43 of the Local Government Act, 1991;
(g) a regional tourism organisation;

(h) the General Council of County Councils;

(i) the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland;

(j) a county enterprise board within the meaning of the Industrial Development Act, 1995;

(k) a LEADER group established in the framework of an EU community initiative for rural development;

(l) the Dublin Transportation Office Advisory Committee;

(m) an Area Partnership Board;

(n) such other body or bodies as may be specified by order of the Minister either generally or in respect of one or more specified local authorities.

(4) (a) This paragraph applies to the appointment of—

(i) members of a local authority, and

(ii) other persons who are not members (where such appointment is authorised by or under any enactment),

to a body referred to in subparagraph (3), whether by way of nomination or election.

(b) Clause (a) does not apply as regards the appointment of persons who are not members of a local authority to membership of a strategic policy committee, a municipal policy committee, a local consultative committee, a vocational education committee or a school attendance committee.

(5) This paragraph shall not be read so as to make unnecessary for appointment to any office, post or position, the possession of any special knowledge, experience or other qualification the possession of which is required by law for appointment to the office, post or position.

(6) This paragraph shall not be read so as to affect the entry to or tenure of membership of any body, or any other office, held by virtue of being an office holder.

(7) Section 5 of, and the relevant provisions of the Second Schedule to, the Health Act, 1970, shall have effect in relation to appointments by a local authority to a health board.

_Equity in appointments, etc_

19.—(1) A local authority shall seek to promote the objective of an appropriate gender balance in the making of appointments by it
to bodies to which paragraph 18 applies and to other bodies.

(2) The Minister may issue guidelines as regards the objective referred to in subparagraph (1), and a local authority shall comply with any such guidelines in the making of its appointments to the bodies concerned.

(3) A local authority may by resolution make rules for the purpose of ensuring that appointments made by it to bodies to which paragraph 18 applies and to other bodies are made fairly and equitably, taking account of the various interests represented on the authority and the totality of the appointments to be made to those bodies.

(4) Nothing in this paragraph shall be read as prohibiting the operation of paragraph 18 by any group of members except that any member who voted for a resolution under this paragraph shall not—

(a) form any part of a group by virtue of paragraph 18 in relation to a body to which rules referred to in subparagraph (3) apply, or

(b) vote in accordance with paragraph 18 in relation to an appointment to such body