



Council

Monday 12 April 2021

Subject: Review of the Allocation of Seats to Political Groups on Committees and Sub-Committees

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

This report sets out the details of the political groups on the Council, the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each committee and the allocation to different political groups of seats on the committees. As a result of Notices being received in accordance with the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1) that the details of political groups, as set out in Appendix A, be accepted;**
- 2) that the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each Committee be accepted; and**
- 3) that the allocation to different political groups of seats on committees, as set out in Appendix B, be accepted.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Financial : FIN/4/22/TJB

None from this report.

Staffing :

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Data Protection Implications :

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Health Implications:

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

None.

Risk Assessment : n/a

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is required to review the allocation to different political groups of seats on committees and sub-committees.
- 1.2 The requirement to review the allocations is as a result of Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowen giving due notice under regulation 10 of the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990 that he no longer wishes to be treated as a member of the Conservative Group nor the Administration. Councillor Jeff Summers has given due notice under Regulation 9b that he wishes to be treated as Member of both the Conservative Group and the Administration.
- 1.3 It should be noted for the purposes of the political balance calculation, as the Council is carrying a vacancy, the total number of Members is based on a compliment of 35 as opposed to the 36 seats.
- 1.4 Existing political groups for the purposes of the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990 are as follows:

Group	No.	Leader/Spokesperson	Deputy Leaders
West Lindsey Administration Group	20	Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Anne Welburn
Liberal Democrat Group	12	Councillor Trevor Young	Councillor Lesley Rollings
Lincolnshire Independents	2	Councillor Chris Darcel	Councillor Cherie Hill

- 1.5 Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan, West Lindsey Independent is not aligned to any Group, and the Council has one vacancy.
- 1.6 The Council has delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service to agree, following consultation with the Group Leaders, the overall allocation of seats to groups resulting from the application of rounding.
- 1.7 Full details of group membership are set out in Appendix A.

2. The Allocations

- 2.1 In accordance with the provisions of section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Duty to allocate seats to political groups), the Council is required to give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the following specified principles:
- (a) that not all the seats on a Committee/Sub-Committee are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the majority of the seats on a Committee/Sub-Committee are allocated to a particular political group where the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary Committees which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of that authority as is borne by the number of **Members of that group** to the membership of the authority;
 - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on the Committee/Sub-Committee which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Committee/Sub-Committee as is borne by the number of **members of that group** to the membership of the authority.
- 2.2 (b) above applies as there is a group with a majority of seats on the Council.
- 2.3 In order to give effect, so far as is **reasonably practicable**, to the principles specified above and in consultation with group leaders as required by the delegation, it has been determined that the best fit to meet the political balance rules is for the: -
- **Planning Committee, Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, Prosperous Communities Committee, and Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comprise 14 Members;**
 - **Licensing Committee and Regulatory Committee to comprise 11 Members;**
 - **Chief Officer Employment Committee to comprise 10 Members**
 - **Governance and Audit Committee to comprise 7 Members; and**
- 2.4 **It should be noted that it was requested that the political balance for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee not be applied (as was agreed following the District wide elections in May 2019 (to retain the suspension of political balance a separate vote will be required on the appointment of Committees report). As such 12 Places have been afforded to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.** The allocations have therefore been calculated on this basis.

- 2.5 As agreed as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution during 2017/2018, the same 11 Members comprise both the Licensing Committee and the Regulatory Committee.
- 2.6 All of the Group Leaders have been consulted on the number of Members appointed to serve on the Committees/Sub-Committees.
- 2.7 Applying group numbers to the seats available on the Committees and Sub-Committees gives the allocation set out in Appendix B, as the most reasonably practical in the circumstances.
- 2.8 It should be noted that the receipt of the two notices referred to in 1.2 above in effect negate each other in terms of the political balance of the Council. As such the number of seats allocated to each Political Group remains the same, however there is a need to re-appoint Members to the Committees, given the change of membership within these Groups.