



Annual Council

Monday, 9 May 2022

Subject: Review Of The Allocation Of Seats To Political Groups On Committees/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.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1) that the details of political groups, as set out in Appendix A, be noted;**
- 2) that the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each Committee, arising from the Head of Paid Service's delegated decision, be noted; and**
- 3) that the allocation to different political groups of seats on committees, as set out in Appendix B, arising from the Head of Paid Service's delegated decision, be noted.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Council is required to review the allocation to different political groups of seats on committees and sub-committees, in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, when either a trigger is met (election, resignation change in Group Membership) or at least annually at its annual meeting as set out in the Constitution.

This review is borne out of the Council's commitment to review the balance annually at its AGM. No changes have arisen within the Groups since the last review in January 2022 following a by-election.

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/24/22/SL

None directly arising as a result of this report.

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

None directly arising as a result of this report.

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

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 :

Working Papers and Options considered held by Democratic Services

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 last review of the allocations took place in January 2022 following a by-election result and relevant notice been received under Regulation 9b.
- 1.3 This review is borne from the Council's commitment in its Constitution to, at each Annual Meeting, review the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules. No changes which would affect political balance, have been made to the Groups since the last review in January 2022.
- 1.3 Existing political groups for the purposes of the Local Government(Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990 are as follows:

Group Name	No. In Group	Leader/ Spokesperson	Deputy Leader(s)
West Lindsey Administration Group	20	Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Anne Welburn
Liberal Democrat Group	13	Councillor Trevor Young	Councillor Lesley Rollings
Lincolnshire Independents Group	2	Councillor Chris Darcel	Councillor Cherie Hill

- 1.4 Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan, West Lindsey Independent is not aligned to any Group.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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, Licensing Committee, Regulatory Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (if Politically balanced) * to comprise 14 Members;**
- **Chief Officer Employment Committee to comprise 9 Members**
- **Governance and Audit Committee to comprise 7 Members;**

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 and has been at each subsequent allocation review undertaken).

To retain the suspension of political balance a separate vote will be required on the appointment of Committees report). The allocations have therefore been calculated on an un-balanced basis and as **such 11 places have been afforded to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

2.5 As agreed as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution during 2017/2018, the same 14 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, and as such the allocations remain unchanged.