



Council

Monday, 5 September 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.

A re-allocation has been undertaken as a result of Notices being received in accordance with the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990 from Councillor S England.

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.

Financial :

None directly arising as a result of 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:

Working Papers and Options considered held by Democratic Services

Risk Assessment :

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 Steve England having given due notice under Regulation 10 that he no longer wishes to be treated as a Member of the Administration Group, and as such, wishes to be treated as an independent unaligned Councillor.
- 1.3 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	19	Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Anne Welburn
Liberal Democrat Group	13	Councillor Trevor Young	Councillor Lesley Rollings
Lincolnshire Independents	2	Councillor Chris Darcel	Councillor Cherie Hill

- 1.4 Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan, West Lindsey Independent is not aligned to any Group.
- 1.5 Councillor Steve England, Independent, is also not aligned to any Group.
- 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, and one on which both main Group Leaders have indicated their agreement to, is for the: -
- **Prosperous Communities Committee to comprise 15 Members**
 - **Planning Committee, Licensing Committee, Regulatory Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comprise 14 Members**
 - **Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to comprise 13 Members**
 - **Chief Officer Employment Committee and Governance and Audit Committee to comprise 7 Members**
- 2.4 There has been no request to suspend the political balance on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following Council's decision in May 2022.
- 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 Group Leaders have been consulted on the number of Members appointed to serve on the Committees/Sub-Committees and have indicated their agreement to the proposal.
- 2.7 Applying group numbers to the seats available on the Committees gives the allocation set out in Appendix B, as the most reasonably practical in the circumstances and the option supported by Group Leaders.