



Full Council

29 June 2026

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

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

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Executive 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 a new Group having been formed.

Appendices to Report

- Appendix A – Composition of Groups
- Appendix B – Political Balance Allocation

RECOMMENDATION(S):

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

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 at least annually at its Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 1.2 The last review of the allocations took place on 11 May 2026 at the AGM.
- 1.3 Since that time, due notice of the formation of a new Group, to be known as “The Community Independents Group” has been received by the Head of Paid Service, resulting in the need for a further review.
- 1.4 Existing political groups for the purposes of the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990 are now as follows:

Group	No. of Members	Leader	Deputy
The West Lindsey Administration Group	28	Councillor Jackie Brockway	Councillor Moira Westley
The West Lindsey Liberal Democrat Group	6	Councillor Trevor Young	Councillor Lesley Rollings
The Community Independents Group	2	Councillor Emma Bailey	Councillor Lynda Mullally

- 1.5 The Council currently has no ‘unaligned’ Members.
- 1.6 Full details of group membership are set out in Appendix A.

2. Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

- 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 to a lesser degree if there is no one Group with a majority of seats on the Council. External advice is sought when necessary to ensure the application of the rules is applied equitably.

2.3 The proposals set out in this report for Council's consideration with regards to the size and number of seats to be allocated to each political group on each of the Committees reflect the proposals of the Leader of the largest political group.

2.4 These are regarded as complying with the requirements for political proportionality as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as far as reasonably practicable and are summarised below

- Standards Committee 6 Members

- Thriving Council Committee 7 Members
- Thriving Places Committee 7 Members
- Thriving People Committee 7 Members
- Governance Audit Committee 7 Members

- Chief Officer Employment Committee 9 Members
- Planning Committee 9 Members
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee 9 Members

- Licensing Committee 10 Members
- Regulatory Committee 10 Members

2.5 Applying group numbers to the seats available on the Committees gives the allocation set out in Appendix B.

2.6 It should be noted that in conforming to the requirements of principle (d) (i.e. allocating seats on each committee to political groups in the 'same proportion' as each group has on the Council as a whole) above, where the percentage is above or below 0.5, there is no prescribed legislative requirement for a strict rounding approach to be adopted. The allocation seeks to consider how all Groups are represented on individual committees, and ultimately reflect Council's wishes within the proportionality requirements in this regard.

3 Alternative Options

	Option	Rational for not recommending
1	To not review the allocations	This is not feasible given due notice has been received from two Members, and would result in the Council not being politically balanced in accordance with the legislation.

ASSOCIATED 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 as a result of a new group having been formed

Financial:

Staffing:

None directly arising as a result of this report.

LGR implications:

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.

Risk Assessment:

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 held by Democratic Services

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