

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	County Council
Date:	20 May 2016
Subject:	Political balance on committees and sub-committees and allocation of places to political groups

Summary:

There is a duty to review political balance on committees and sub-committees and allocation of seats to political groups at the annual meeting of the Council. Since the last review in May 2015, the vacancy in the Grantham Barrowby Electoral Division has been filled following a by-election. While this has increased the number of councillors from 76 to 77, the allocation of places to political groups has not been affected.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That Council notes the change in the number of councillors on the Council since the last review.
- 2) That Council adopts Appendix A as the amended political balance of committees, sub-committees and outside bodies.

1. Background

1.1 The Council is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended) to review the allocation of seats to political groups on committees and sub-committees. Under the Council's Constitution the composition of committees and sub-committees is the responsibility of the full Council. This was last reviewed at the annual meeting of Council on 15 May 2015 when the Council had a membership of 76 councillors and one vacancy.

1.2 At a by-election on 2 July 2015 Mark Whittington was elected as councillor for the Grantham Barrowby Electoral Division, increasing the number of councillors from 76 to 77.

1.3 The impact of this change is shown in the table below:

	15 May 2015 (Council)		20 May 2016 (Now)	
	Members	%	Members	%
Lincolnshire Administration	41	53.9%	42	54.5%
Labour	12	15.8%	12	15.6%
UKIP	12	15.8%	12	15.6%
Lincolnshire Independents and Independents	8	10.5%	8	10.4%
Independence from Europe	3	3.9%	3	3.9%

1.4 In allocating seats on politically balanced committees, sub-committees and outside bodies the Council must only make such determinations as give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the following principles (in the order shown)

- a) that not all of the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group
- b) that the majority of seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership
- c) that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Council which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of the Council as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council and
- d) that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

In applying principles c) and d) above the proportion of members of a group to the membership of the Council is calculated using the % above. The legal entitlements for all the political groups applying the above principles will be attached as an appendix to this report.

2. Conclusion

It is a matter for the Council to allocate seats on committees and sub-committees to the political groups on the Council, which it must do in accordance with the law

relating to proportionality. The change to membership slightly affects the percentage of entitlement, but this does not impact on the number of seats each political group is legally entitled to.

3. Legal Comments:

Council is required to allocate seats on the Committees of the Council to political groups in accordance with the law relating to proportionality as set out in the Report.

The decision is within the remit of the Council.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no material financial implications arising from acceptance of the recommendations in this report.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report

Appendix A	Allocation of places to political groups.
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7. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Nigel West, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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