

Open Report on behalf of Tony McArdle, Chief Executive

Report to:	County Council
Date:	21 May 2010
Subject:	Committee Structure, Political Balance on Committees and Sub-Committees and Allocation of Places

Summary:

This report seeks approval for changes to the allocation of seats on the County Council's committees and sub-committees following recent changes in political groups and for the appointment of councillors to those places on the committees and sub-committees.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That the allocation of seats on committees, sub-committees and other bodies between political groups, as set out in Appendix A, be approved.
- 2) That the making of appointments to committees, sub-committees and those other bodies be carried out by the Chief Executive, in accordance with the wishes of Group Leaders, Deputy Group Leaders and Group Whips, pursuant to his delegated powers.

1. Background

The County Council is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to review the allocation of seats to political groups on committees and sub-committees.

Attached at Appendix A is the proposed allocation of seats to political groups, reflecting recent changes in political groups. The allocation proposed to each of the committees does ensure that each committee is politically balanced, so far as is reasonably practicable, given the number of seats on each committee and that the membership of council bodies overall reflects the proportion of seats held by each Group on the Council. The appointment of members of the Council to the Standards Committee is not covered by the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

It is a statutory requirement that each committee or other body that deals with education matters has appointed to it at least five church and parent governor representatives. In order to meet the statutory requirements within the political

management structure, these additional members will be invited to meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee when they are considering education matters.

2. Conclusion

Appendix A demonstrates how the proposals for political balance have been calculated following recent changes in political groups. Decisions on the composition of Committees, Sub-committees, Groups and Panels and the making of appointments to them are within the remit of the full Council.

3. Legal Comments:

The Council's Constitution provides that it is a function of the Council to agree the composition of Committees, Sub-Committees, Groups and Panels and this includes the allocation of seats to Political Groups. The Council must in allocating seats ensure that the overall allocation of all seats reflects the political balance of the Council.

The Council is also required to appoint members to the allocated seats on its Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Groups in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups. This can be done by full Council or the Constitution provides for it to be done by the Chief Executive in accordance with nominations received from each Group Leader.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of the recommendations in this report.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

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	
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Appendix A	Allocation of seats 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.