

**Open report on behalf of the Executive Director Performance and Governance**

Report to:	<b>County Council</b>
Date:	<b>14 September 2012</b>
Subject:	<b>Committee structure, political balance on Committees and Sub-Committees and allocation of places</b>

**Summary:**

This report seeks approval for the allocation of seats on committees, sub-committees and other bodies between political groups, amended following recent changes in membership. It also seeks approval for a change in the membership and chairmanship of the Highways, Transport and Technology Scrutiny Committee.

**Recommendation(s):**

- 1) That the County Council approves the allocation of seats on committees, sub-committees and other bodies between political groups, as set out in the Appendix, to be circulated with the Order of Proceedings.
- 2) That Councillor N D Cooper be appointed to the Highways, Transport and Technology Scrutiny Committee and appointed chairman of that committee.
- 3) That the making of other 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**

1.1 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. Under the Council's Constitution the composition of committees and sub-committees is the responsibility of the full Council.

1.2 At the time of writing this report there has been one change to the membership of the County Council following a by-election in the Lincoln East Division.

- 1.3 There was due to be another change on 6 September 2012 following a by-election to fill a vacancy in the Nettleham and Saxilby Division.
- 1.4 The changes have triggered a review of the proportionality figures and the allocation of seats.
- 1.5 A document attached to the Order of Proceedings and circulated at the meeting will show the proposed allocation of seats to political groups, reflecting these changes in membership. The allocation proposed to each of the committees will 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.
- 1.6 In addition, the Chairman of the Highways, Transport and Technology Scrutiny Committee, Councillor R G Davies, has expressed a wish to resign his membership of the committee with effect from 11 September 2012.
- 1.7 Councillor N D Cooper has been nominated to replace Councillor R G Davies on the committee and to be appointed chairman of the committee. As appointment of the Chairman is reserved to Full Council it is proposed that Full Council also appoint Cllr N D Cooper as a member of the committee, otherwise it is proposed that appointment to committees is done by the Chief Executive under delegated authority.

## **2. Conclusion**

The Appendix attached to the Order of Proceedings will demonstrate how the proposals for political balance have been calculated to reflect the recent changes in membership of the Council. Decisions on the composition of committees and sub-committees 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 Deputy Group Leader and Group Whip.

#### **4. Resource Comments:**

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

#### **5. Consultation**

**a) a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

N/A

**b) b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?**

Yes

**c) c) Scrutiny Comments**

N/A

**d) d) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

N/A

#### **6. Appendices**

These are listed below: -

Appendix A - proposals for political balance on Committees and Sub-Committees

*NOTE - Appendix A will be attached to the Order of Proceedings and circulated at the meeting.*

#### **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, Democratic Services Manager, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or [nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk).