

COUNCIL MEETING - 13 JULY 2021

POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES TO POLITICAL GROUPS

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 Following the recent by-elections held on 6 May 2021 and 1 July 2021, to inform the Council of the political composition of the Council and to consider proposals for the allocation of seats on Committees to Political Groups, as required by Council Procedure Rule No. 17.6.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to consider the political composition of the Council. The Act, together with Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, require local authorities to allocate seats on Committees of a local authority on a proportional basis, in accordance with the number of seats on the Council held by each political group.

2.2 The political composition and allocation of seats was effectively deferred at the Annual Meeting held on 4 May 2021 given the vacancies on the Council at that time. The by-election for the Boughton Ward was held on 6 May 2021 and the by-election for the Bridge Ward (two vacancies) was held on 1 July 2021. The elected candidates for the vacant seats were as follows:

Boughton Ward – Tim Wildgust – Conservative

Bridge Ward – Simon Haynes – Conservative

Bridge Ward – Jack Kellas - Conservative

3.0 Present Position

3.1 Following these by-elections, the seats held by each Group on the Council are as follows:-

	<u>No. of Seats</u>
Conservative	29
Labour	7
Liberal Democrats	2
Independent	1

3.2 Under the committee style of governance all Committees are required to reflect the political balance. Based on the existing committee structure there are a total of 102 seats on Committees which must comply with political balance rules.

3.3 The Constitution provides that the following Committees be appointed:-

<u>Committee</u>	<u>No. of Members</u>
Policy & Finance	7
Homes & Communities	12
Leisure & Environment	12
Economic Development	12
Planning	15

Licensing	15
General Purposes	15
Audit & Accounts	6
Shareholder	5
Gilstrap	5
Mansfield & District Crematorium Joint Committee	3

Based on the existing Committee structure the following calculation can be made:-

a) No of seats on Council = 39

% of total seats held by each Group (rounded) =

	%
Conservative	74.36
Labour	17.95
Liberal Democrats	5.13
Independent	2.56
	100%

b) The 107 seats on Committees are as follows:

▪ Policy and Finance	= 7
▪ Homes and Communities	= 12
▪ Leisure and Environment	= 12
▪ Economic Development	= 12
▪ Planning	= 15
▪ Licensing	= 15
▪ General Purposes	= 15
▪ Audit & Accounts	= 6
▪ Shareholder	= 5
▪ Gilsrap	= 5
▪ Mansfield and District Joint Crematorium	= 3

The allocation of seats to each Group on these Committees would be:-

			<u>Rounded</u>
Conservative	107 x 74.36%	79.57	80
Labour	107 x 17.95%	19.21	19
Liberal Democrats	107 x 5.13%	5.49	5
Independent	107 x 2.56%	2.74	3
			107

c) The number of seats allocated on Committees to each Political Group is as follows:

Conservative	80
Labour	19
Liberal Democrats	5
Independent	3

3.3 The proposed allocation of seats on Committees to each political group is set out in the matrix which is attached as **Appendix A** to the report.

3.4 Schedules of appointments to Committees have been forwarded to Group Leaders, based on the calculations made.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Council agree the allocation of seats to Political Groups in accordance with Appendix A to the report.

Background Papers

Nil.

For further information please contact Nigel Hill on 01636 655243.

**John Robinson
Chief Executive**