

COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 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-election held on 21 October 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 As Members will recall the allocation of seats to Committees was last considered at the Meeting held on 13 July 2021, which was effectively the Annual Meeting. The allocation of seats requires a further review at this meeting following the District Ward by-election for the Rainworth South and Blidworth Ward held on 21 October 2021.
- 2.3 The result of the by-election was as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Sheila Jackson (Conservative) | 168 votes |
| Tina Thompson (Independent) | 650 votes |
| Callam Walsh (Labour) | 164 votes |

3.0 Present Position

- 3.1 As a result, the seats held by each Group on the Council are as follows:-

| | <u>No. of Seats</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Conservative | 29 |
| Labour | 6 |
| Liberal Democrats | 2 |
| Independent | 1 |
| 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 | 15.39 |
| Liberal Democrats | 5.13 |
| Independent | 2.56 |
| Independent | 2.56 |
| | <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/> 100% |

b) There are 107 seats on Committees. 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 15.39% | 16.46 | 16 |
| Liberal Democrats | 107 x 5.13% | 5.49 | 5 |
| Independent | 107 x 2.56% | 2.74 | 3 |
| Independent | 107 x 2.56% | 2.74 | 3 |
| | | | <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/> 107 |

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

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Conservative | 80 |
| Labour | 16 |
| Liberal Democrats | 5 |
| Independent | 3 |
| Independent | 3 |

The impact of the change in composition is that the Labour Group have three less seats overall, across all committees.

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 The calculations and matrix are based on the numbers across the whole Council, including the now two independent Members. Previously, there has been an Independent Group and it would be open to the two independent Members to form a political grouping if they wished. The allocation of seats as proposed, is for the Council to determine, including whether seats are offered to the independent members, which has been the previous practice.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) the Council agree the allocation of seats to Political Groups in accordance with Appendix A to the report; and**
- (b) changes be made in Committee memberships as advised at the meeting.**

Background Papers

Nil.

For further information please contact Nigel Hill on 01636 655243.

John Robinson
Chief Executive