



Report to: Annual Meeting of the Full Council - 23 May 2023

Director Lead: John Robinson, Chief Executive

Lead Officer: Nigel Hill, Business Manager - Elections & Democratic Services, Ext. 5243

Report Summary	
Report Title	Political Composition of the Council and allocation of seats on Committees to Political Groups.
Purpose of Report	Following the District Council Elections held on 4 May 2023, 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. 1.1.2.
Recommendations	<p>That the Council agree the allocation of seats to Political Groups in accordance with Appendix A to the report.</p> <p>That appointments to Committees be made as advised at the meeting.</p> <p>That the terms of reference for the Board of Trustees of the Gilstrap Charity be amended as set out at paragraph 2.4 to the report.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure the Council complies with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

1.0 Background

1.1. 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.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 Following the elections on 4 May 2023, the seats held by each Group on the Council are now as follows:

	<u>No. of Seats</u>
Conservative	14
Labour	11

Independents for Newark	8
Liberal Democrat	3
Newark & Sherwood District	2
Independents	
Independent N/A	1

- 2.2 Under the Leader / Executive model of governance only certain Committees are required to reflect the political balance. There are a total of 77 seats on Committees which must comply with political balance rules as follows:

Committee	No. of Members
Policy & Performance Improvement Committee	15
Planning Committee	15
Licensing Committee	15
General Purposes Committee	15
Audit & Governance Committee	12
Board of Gilstrap Trustees	5
Total	77 seats

Based on these new arrangements the following calculation can be made:

- a) No of seats on Council = 39

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

	%
Conservative	35.9%
Labour	28.2%
Inds for Newark	20.5%
Liberal Democrats	7.7%
N&S District Inds	5.1%
Ind N/A	2.6%
	<u>100%</u>

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

			<u>Rounded</u>
Conservative	77 x 35.9%	27.64	28*
Labour	77 x 28.2%	21.71	22
Inds for Newark	77 x 20.5%	15.78	16
Liberal Democrats	77 x 7.7%	5.93	6
N & S District Inds	77 x 5.1%	3.92	4
Ind N/A	77 x 2.6%	2.00	1*
			<u>77</u>

*Following discussion with groups

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

Conservative	28
Labour	22
Independents for Newark	16
Liberal Democrats	6
Newark & Sherwood District Independents	4
Independent N/A	1

- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The terms of reference for the Board of the Trustees of the Gilstrap Charity restricts membership to Newark Ward Members, however this means it is not possible to meet the political balance requirements following the result of the 4 May 2023 elections. Therefore, it is proposed to make a minor amendment to the terms of reference for the Board in the Council's Constitution to state that membership is restricted to Newark Ward Members, subject to political proportionality rules.
- 2.5 Schedules of appointments to Committees have been forwarded to Group Leaders, based on the calculations made.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None