



Report to: Full Council – 13 February 2024

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Peacock, Strategy, Performance & Finance

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	To inform the Council of the political composition of the Council following the resignation of Cllr Amer from the Independents for Newark & District group and to amend the allocation of seats to committees accordingly.
Recommendations	That the Council: a) agree the allocation of seats to Political Groups in accordance with Appendix A to the report; and b) changes to appointments to Committees be made as advised at the meeting.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure the Council complies with Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

1.0 Background

- 1.1. Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to consider the political composition of the Council. The Act, together with Local Government (Committees & 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.
- 1.2 Councillor Amer advised the Chief Executive on 21 January 2024 that he had resigned as a member of the Independents for Newark & District political group.
- 1.3 Following this resignation, 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	7
Liberal Democrat	3
Newark & Sherwood District	2
Independents	
Independent N/A (Amer)	1
Independent N/A (Brown)	1

- 1.4 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 & District	17.9%
Liberal Democrats	7.7%
N&S District Inds	5.1%
Ind N/A (Amer)	2.6%
Ind N/A (Brown)	2.6%
	100%

- 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 & District	77 x 17.9%	13.78	14
Liberal Democrats	77 x 7.7%	5.93	6
N & S District Inds	77 x 5.1%	3.92	4
Ind N/A (Amer)	77 x 2.6%	2.00	2
Ind N/A (Brown)	77 x 2.6%	2.00	1*
			77

*Following discussion with groups and Councillor Brown.

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

Conservative	28
Labour	22
Independents for Newark & District	14
Liberal Democrats	6
Newark & Sherwood District Independents	4
Independent N/A (Amer)	2
Independent N/A (Brown)	1

- 1.5 The allocation of seats on Committees to each political group calculated above, gives seats to the two independent non-aligned Members but the allocation of these seats is at the discretion of the Full Council and currently Cllr Irene Brown has only taken one seat.

- 1.6 As a result of the resignation of Cllr Amer from the Independents for Newark & District, this group effectively have two less seats on committees. The matrix at Appendix A of the report sets out the proposed allocation of seats to political groups to reflect this change.

2.0 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