



Report to: Full Council – 15 October 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 recent Group changes.
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 etc. be made in accordance with Appendix B to the report.
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 Spoons advised on 29 July 2024 that he had joined the Green Party and subsequently had left the Labour Group on the District Council. Councillor Oldham advised that she had left the Independents for Newark & District on 11 August to join the Green Party.
- 1.3 Councillors Spoons and Oldham have given notice that they have formed a Green Party group on the Council in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, with Cllr Oldham as Leader.
- 1.4 Following these changes, the seats held by each Group on the Council are now as follows:

	<u>No. of Seats</u>
Conservative	14
Labour	10
Independents for Newark & District	6
Liberal Democrat	3
Newark & Sherwood District Independents	2
Green	2
Independent N/A (Amer)	1
Independent N/A (Brown)	1

- 1.5 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	25.6%
Independents for Newark & District	15.4%
Liberal Democrats	7.7%
N&S District Independents	5.1%
Green	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 25.6%	19.71	20
Independents for Newark & District	77 x 15.4%	11.86	12
Liberal Democrats	77 x 7.7%	5.93	6

N & S District Independents	77 x 5.1%	3.92	4
Green	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	20
Independents for Newark & District	12
Liberal Democrats	6
Newark & Sherwood District Independents	4
Green	4
Independent N/A (Amer)	2
Independent N/A (Brown)	1

- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 As a result of the formation of the new Green Group, the Labour and Independents for Newark & District groups, both having 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.
- 1.8 A revised schedule of Member Appointments (incorporating the changes in the Leaders appointments reported at the previous item and reflecting the amended allocation of seats to groups) is attached as **Appendix B** to the report.

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