



Report to: Full Council – 17 December 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 Councillors Dales and Holloway gave notice on 23 November 2024 that they had left the Conservative Group on the Council.
- 1.3 Both Councillors Dales and Holloway have indicated that they will sit as Independent non-aligned Members on the Council going forward.
- 1.4 Following these changes, the seats held by each Group on the Council are now as follows:

	<u>No. of Seats</u>
Conservative	12
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
Independent N/A (Dales)	1
Independent N/A (Holloway)	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	30.77%
Labour	25.64%
Independents for Newark & District	15.38%
Liberal Democrats	7.69%
N&S District Independents	5.13%
Green	5.13%
Ind N/A (Amer)	2.56%
Ind N/A (Brown)	2.56%
Ind N/A (Dales)	2.56%
Ind N/A (Holloway)	2.56%
	100%

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

			<u>Rounded</u>
Conservative	77 x 30.77%	23.69	24* 26
Labour	77 x 25.64%	19.74	20*
Independents for Newark & District	77 x 15.38%	11.84	12
Liberal Democrats	77 x 7.69%	5.92	6
N & S District Independents	77 x 5.13%	3.95	4
Green	77 x 5.13%	3.95	4
Ind N/A (Amer)	77 x 2.56%	1.97	2
Ind N/A (Brown)	77 x 2.56%	1.97	2* 1
Ind N/A (Dales)	77 x 2.56%	1.97	2* 1
Ind N/A (Holloway)	77 x 2.56%	1.97	2* 1
			<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 77 <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>

*Following discussions with groups and the Independent non-aligned Members.

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

Conservative	26
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
Independent N/A (Dales)	1
Independent N/A (Holloway)	1

1.6 The allocation of seats on Committees to each political group calculated above, gives seats to the independent non-aligned Members on the Council, but the allocation of these seats is at the discretion of the Full Council. Given the changes reported, the minimal changes in committee membership would be for Cllr Dales to remain on the Planning Committee and Cllr Holloway to go onto the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee and have one seat each only. This means the Conservative Group loses 2 seats.

1.7 Following the changes in the Conservative Group they appointed Cllr Kellas as their new Leader with Cllr Jackson remaining as Deputy Leader. Given Cllr Kellas is now the Leader of the Largest Opposition Group he will sit on the Cabinet, therefore is restricted from being able to continue to sit on the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee.

1.8 As a result of the changes reported, the matrix at **Appendix A** sets out the proposed allocation of seats to political groups to reflect this change.

1.9 A revised schedule of Member Appointments is attached as **Appendix B** to the report. This confirms the appointments of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

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