



Report to: Annual Meeting of the Full Council – 20 May 2025

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	
<b>Report Title</b>	Political Composition of the Council and allocation of seats on Committees
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	In accordance with the Constitution, to consider the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That the Council approve the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with <b>Appendix A</b> to the report.
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	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 These seats held by each political group on the Council are as follows:-

Political Group	Membership	Percentage of Council (rounded)
Conservative	11	28.21
Labour	10	25.64
Independents for Newark & District	6	15.38
Liberal Democrats	3	7.69
Green	2	5.14
Newark & Sherwood Independents	2	5.14

- 1.3 There are also five independent non-aligned Members on the Council as follows:

<b>Independent Non-Aligned Members</b>	<b>Percentage of Council (rounded)</b>
Cllr Amer	2.56
Cllr Brown	2.56
Cllr Dales	2.56
Cllr Holloway	2.56
Cllr Lee	2.56

- 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:

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

- 1.5 Based on these arrangements the following calculations can be made in terms of allocation of seats on Committees:

			<u>Rounded</u>
Conservative	77 x 28.21%	21.72	22* 23
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 5.14%	3.95	4
Green	77 x 5.14%	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
Ind N/A (Lee)	77 x 2.56%	1.97	2
			<hr/> 77 <hr/>

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

- 1.6 The allocation of seats on Committees to each political group calculated above, gives seats to the independent non-aligned Members, but the allocation of these seats is at the discretion of the Full Council and currently Councillors Irene Brown and Linda Dales only have one seat each on Committees.

- 1.7 The matrix at **Appendix A** of the report sets out the proposed allocation of seats to political groups.

## **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.

### **Legal Implications** (LEG2425/2827)

- 2.1 Full Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. There is no legal requirement for Non-aligned Independent Members to be allocated Committee seats.

### **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