



Report to: Meeting of the Full Council – 15 July 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, following the changes made to the Council's Committees.
<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 As Members will be aware, the political composition of the Council and allocation of seats to committees, was considered and approved at the Annual Meeting held on 20 May 2025. The seats held by each political group on the Council remain unchanged from the last meeting and is confirmed in the tables below.

Political Group	Membership	Percentage of Council (rounded)
Conservative	12	30.77
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

Independent Non-Aligned Members	Percentage of Council (rounded)
Cllr Amer	2.56
Cllr Brown	2.56
Cllr Holloway	2.56
Cllr Lee	2.56

- 1.2 The change is to the actual number of seats on Committees, which had decreased from 77 to 71 given the effective deletion of the General Purposes Committee and the establishment of the Audit and Accounts and the Governance, General Purposes and Local Government Reorganisation Committee.
- 1.3 Those Committees which are now required to reflect political balance rules are as follows:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>No. of Members</b>
Policy and Performance Improvement Committee	15
Planning Committee	15
Licensing Committee	15
Audit and Accounts Committee	9
Governance, General Purposes and LGR Committee	12
Board of Gilstrap Trustees	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>71 seats</b>

- 1.4 Given this change to 71 seats, the following calculation can be made in terms of allocation of seats:

			<u>Rounded</u>
Conservative	71 x 30.77%	21.84	22
Labour	71 x 25.64%	18.20	18
Independents for Newark & District	71 x 15.38%	10.92	11
Liberal Democrats	71 x 7.69%	5.46	5
N&S District Independents	71 x 5.14%	3.65	4
Green	71 x 5.14%	3.65	4
Ind N/A (Amer)	71 x 2.56%	1.84	2
Ind N/A (Brown)	71 x 2.56%	1.84	1
Ind N/A (Holloway)	71 x 2.56%	1.84	2
Ind N/A (Lee)	71 x 2.56%	1.84	2
			<hr/> 71 <hr/>

- 1.5 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 Councillor Irene Brown only has one seat on Committees.
- 1.6 The revised matrix at **Appendix A** 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** (LEG2526/996)

- 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