



Report to: Annual Meeting of the Full Council - 19 May 2026

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

Director Lead: John Robinson, Chief Executive

Lead Officer: Nigel Hill, Business Manager - Elections & Democratic Services

Report Summary	
Report Title	Political Composition of the Council and Allocation of Seats on Committees
Purpose of Report	In accordance with the Constitution, to consider the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules.
Recommendations	That the Council approve the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with Appendix A 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 The seats held by each political group on the Council are as follows:

Political Group	Membership	Percentage of Council
Conservative	12	30.77
Labour	11	28.20
Independents for Newark & District	5	12.82
Liberal Democrats	3	7.69
Newark & Sherwood Independents	2	5.14
Reform	2	5.14
Green	1	2.56

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

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

1.4 This does reflect a change to the political composition from when this was last considered by the Council on 16 December 2025, given that on 9 March 2026 Councillor R Cozens notified the Chief Executive that she had joined the Labour Group on the Council. The impact of this change is that the Labour Group take two seats from the Independents for Newark & District Group which are proposed to be on the Licensing and Audit & Accounts Committees.

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
Audit & Accounts Committee	9
Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee	12
Board of Gilstrap Trustees	5
Total	71 seats

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

			<u>Rounded</u>
Conservative	71 x 30.77%	21.84	22
Labour	71 x 28.20%	20.02	20
Independents for Newark & District	71 x 12.82%	9.10	9
Liberal Democrats	71 x 7.69%	5.46	5
N&S District Independents	71 x 5.14%	3.65	4
Reform	71 x 5.14%	3.65	4
Green (Spoors)	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
			71

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 Councillor Irene Brown only has one seat on a committee.

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 & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	N/A	Equality & Diversity	N/A
Human Resources	N/A	Human Rights	N/A
Legal	Yes	Data Protection	N/A
Digital & Cyber Security	N/A	Safeguarding	N/A
Sustainability	N/A	Crime & Disorder	N/A
LGR	N/A	Tenant Consultation	N/A

Legal Implications (LEG26/27/6278)

- 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