

Report to: Meeting of the Full Council: 14 July 2026

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

Director Lead: John Robinson, Chief Executive

Lead Officer: Nigel Hill, Head of Elections & Democratic Services

Report Summary	
Report Title	Political Composition of the Council and Allocation of Seats on Committees
Purpose of Report	To inform the Council of the political composition of the Council following the resignation of Cllr S. Crosby from the Independents for Newark & District Group and to amend the allocation of seats to committees accordingly.
Recommendations	That the Council approve: a) the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with Appendix A to the report; and b) note the subsequent changes to the membership of Committees (as at paragraph 1.8 of 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 As Members are aware, the political composition of the Council was considered at the Annual Meeting held on 19 May 2026, however Councillor Crosby notified the Chief Executive on 22 June 2026 that she was no longer a member of the Independents for Newark & District Group on the Council and wished to be considered as an independent non-aligned Member, which required a change to the allocation of seats on committees.

- 1.3 Following this change, the seats held by each political group on the Council are now as follows:

Political Group	Membership	Percentage of Council
Conservative	12	30.77
Labour	11	28.20
Independents for Newark & District	4	10.26
Liberal Democrats	3	7.69
Newark & Sherwood Independents	2	5.14
Reform	2	5.14
Green	1	2.56

- 1.4 This now leaves four independent non-aligned Members on the Council:

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

- 1.5 Under the Leader / Executive model of governance, only certain committees are required to reflect the political balance. There are a total of 71 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 10.26%	7.27	7
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 (Crosby)	71 x 2.56%	1.84	2
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 effect of the change is that the allocation of seats to the Independents for Newark & District Group falls from nine to seven, with these two seats going to Cllr Crosby, but the allocation of seats to independent non-aligned Members is at the discretion of the Full Council.
- 1.7 The revised matrix at **Appendix A** to the report, sets out the proposed allocation of seats to political groups with the change being the Independents for Newark & District Group losing one seat on the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee and one seat on the Audit & Accounts Committee, with these being allocated to Cllr Crosby. If Cllr Crosby does not wish to take both seats the Council will need to determine how to allocate these.
- 1.8 Cllr Crosby was already on the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee and if approved, she would take the seat previously held by Cllr Forde on the Audit & Accounts Committee.
- 1.9 The Council may wish to note that further changes to the matrix may be required at the next scheduled meeting of the Council given the impending planning reforms which will require a smaller Planning Committee going forward.

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 LEG2627/7287/LMI

- 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