

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 ('the Act') – POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The Council is required under the above Act to review the political composition of the council following its local elections held on 4 May 2023. This report initiates that review setting out a proposed allocation of seats available to appointed political groups/members on the size of committees/panels to be considered and appointed by Council.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council's political composition following the 4 May 2023 North Lincolnshire Council local elections is 27 Conservative and 16 Labour (43 elected members). In accordance with the Act, it is necessary that the Council now reviews the allocation of seats on its appointed ordinary committees for the 2023/23 council year to ensure that they are 'politically balanced'.
- 2.2 Appendix A to this report details how this ratio of members is shown in the allocation of members to committees/panels, depending on the total number of members on each committee/panel and in accordance with the proportionality rules and principles contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
- 2.3 Appendix B sets out the current range of committees 2022/23 (pre-election) for information with their total membership.
- 2.4 Section 15 of the Act provides that any review must be carried out by applying the following four Principles, in priority order, as follows:
- (a) that not all the seats may be allocated to members of the same political group;
 - (b) where a majority of the members of Council are members of the same political group, a majority of the seats on each committee must be allocated to that political group;

(c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the relationship between the total number of committee seats allocated to each group and the total number of seats on all committees must, as near as possible, be the same as the relationship between the number of members of the group as a proportion of the total number of members of Council; and

(d) subject to (a) – (c) above, taking each committee separately, the number of seats allocated to a particular political group reflects that group's proportion of the membership of the Council.

2.3 In carrying out its review, the Council may only depart from applying the principles by passing a resolution with no member voting against such resolution.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The Council is under a legal obligation to carry out a review of the seats allocated on its committees pursuant to the Act.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 See 3.1 above.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 There are no direct resource implications associated with consideration of this report.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 There are no other relevant implications.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 No conflicts of interest have been identified or declared.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the allocation of seats set out in Appendix A be used when the establishment of committees/panels is being determined.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report-

Local Government and Housing Act 1989
LLG Political Proportionality

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989
POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES/PANELS**

1. Council - 43 Members

Following 4 May 2023 Election - Proportion of Groups to seats on Council

Group	Seats	Proportion
Conservative	27	63%
Labour	16	37%

2. Committees/Sub-Committees/Panels

The following table identifies the number of seats which would be available to groups having regard to the size of Committees/Sub-Committees/Panels.

Seats on Committee/ Sub-Committee/Panels	Conservative	Labour
2	2	-
3	2	1
4	3	1
5	3	2
6	4	2
7	4	3
8	5	3
9	5	4
10	6	4
11	7	4
12	7	5
13	8	5
14	8	6
15	9	6

APPENDIX B

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS - 2022/23

(Based on 28 (*65%) Conservative and 14 (*33%) Labour and 1 (*2%) Independent Proportionality)

Committee	No. of Members	Conservative	Labour	Independent
Planning Committee	8	5	3	0
Licensing Committee	10	6	3	1
Appeals Committee (Drawn from a pool of 12 members – 8 Conservative and 4 Labour)	3	2	1	0
Audit Committee	5	3	2	0
Governance Scrutiny Panel	3	2	1	0
Health Scrutiny Panel	3	2	1	0
Places Scrutiny Panel	3	2	1	0
Children's and Education Scrutiny Panel *	7	6	1	0
<p>*Majority of seats on the committee/panel to be maintained by the majority political group. This panel includes 4 statutory co-opted members - two Church Representatives – voting, plus two Parent Governors Representatives – voting, in relation to Education Issues only.</p>				
Standards Committee	5	3	2	0
(Plus two co-opted non-voting members)				
Appointment and Employment Committee	5	3	2	0
Total Seats	52	34	17	1
Proportionality		*65%	*33%	*2%