

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 keep under review the allocation of seats on its ordinary committees. This report carries out that review setting out a proposed allocation of seats available to political groups/members on the size of committees/panels to be appointed.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council's political composition is 28 Conservative, 14 Labour and 1 Independent. In accordance with the Act, it is necessary that the Council keeps under review the allocation of seats on its ordinary committees to ensure they are 'politically balanced'.
- 2.2 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.

3.2 Consequently, a review has been undertaken and Appendix A sets out for council's consideration, the political balance and proposed allocation of seats available to political groups/members on the size of committees/panels to be appointed.

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 following a review of the political balance of its committees in accordance with the principles of the Act, the Council considers for approval the proposed allocation of seats available to political groups/members on the size of committees/panels appointed, as set out in Appendix A.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITIES

Church Square House
30-40 Church Square
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL

Author: Richard Mell/Will Bell
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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Local Government and Housing Act 1989
LLG Political Proportionality

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
*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.				
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%