

REPORT TO COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

REPORT NO: LDS178

DATE: 16 June 2016

TITLE:	Membership of the Council's Committees and Policy Development Groups	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Decision of council	
EXECUTIVE MEMBER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Kelham Cooke Executive Member: Governance	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Jo Toomey, Principal Democracy Officer Telephone: 01476 40 60 80 (Ext. 6152) E-mail: j.toomey@southkesteven.gov.uk	
INITIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS:	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below N/A	Full impact assessment Required:
Equality and Diversity		
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Your Council and Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Local Government and Housing Act 1989 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/42/part/II/crossheading/political-balance-on-committees-etc Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1990/1553/contents/made	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approves the following changes of membership to the Council's Committees and Policy Development Groups

- **Councillor Mrs. Pam Bosworth is replaced by Councillor Stephen Benn on Development Control Committee**
- **Councillor Hannah Westropp is replaced by Councillor Stephen Benn on the Growth Policy Development Group**

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 2.1 To ensure political balance is maintained following the by-election to fill a vacancy in Deeping St James Ward held on 5 May 2016.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 At its Annual meeting on 21 April 2016, Council appointed members to its committees, policy development groups and in accordance with political balance requirements within Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
- 3.2 Since the Annual General Meeting, a by-election was held in Deeping St James on 5 May 2016 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Tom Webster. The by-election returned one Conservative Councillor, Stephen Benn.
- 3.3 Following the election the political balance for the Council's committees, panels and policy development groups has been recalculated (Appendix 1).
- 3.4 The methodology for calculating the political balance of the policy development groups is that based on the membership of each group being calculated separately (9 seats), which reflects the methodology used by Council on 21 April 2016.
- 3.5 While no changes are required to maintain the political balance of the Council's committees, panels and policy development group, the Leader has indicated that to enable Councillor Benn to become involved, he would like to revise the following Conservative appointments:
- Replacing Councillor Mrs. Pam Bosworth with Councillor Stephen Benn on the Development Control Committee
 - Replacing Councillor Hannah Westropp with Councillor Stephen Benn on the Growth Policy Development Group

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Council must either comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and apply the principles of political balance or agree to make alternative arrangements.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has no resource implications. Finance for special responsibility allowances is incorporated within existing budgets.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION

- 6.1 No significant risks were identified in the preparation of this report.

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM IMPACT ANALYSIS

7.1 An equality analysis is not applicable.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 No crime and disorder implications arise as a result of this report.

9. COMMENTS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

9.1 There are no financial comments arising from this report.

10. COMMENTS OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

10.1 In making appointments to its committees and subcommittees the Council is required to comply with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (LGHA) and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. These set out requirements relating to political balance and the application of this principle to prescribed categories of meeting and makes provision for alternative arrangements. To agree alternative arrangements, no members of the authority present at the meeting may vote against the alternative arrangements. This means that abstentions would not defeat the vote.

10.2 If no alternative arrangements can be agreed, the requirements to address political balance must be put in place.

11. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICES

11.1 Not applicable

12. APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1: political balance calculations

Appendix 1

Political balance of the Council

Group	Seats	%
Conservative	45	80%
Independent	6	11%
Labour	3	5%
Unaligned	1	N/A
UKIP	1	N/A

Committees of the Council

Development Control Committee

Total seats

Group	Proportional entitlement	Entitlement rounded
Conservative	13.66071429	14
Independent	1.821428571	2
Labour	0.910714286	1
Unaligned	N/A	N/A
UKIP	N/A	N/A
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Licensing Committee

Total seats

Group	Proportional entitlement	Entitlement rounded
Conservative	8.839285714	9
Independent	1.178571429	1
Labour	0.589285714	1
Unaligned	N/A	N/A
UKIP	N/A	N/A
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Constitution Committee

Total seats

Group	Proportional entitlement	Entitlement rounded
Conservative	4.017857143	4
Independent	0.535714286	1
Labour	0.267857143	0
Unaligned	N/A	N/A
UKIP	N/A	N/A
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Governance & Audit Committee			Scrutiny Committee		
Total seats	7		Total seats	11	
Group	Proportional entitlement	Entitlement rounded	Group	Proportional entitlement	Entitlement rounded
Conservative	5.625	6	Conservative	8.839285714	9
Independent	0.75	1	Independent	1.178571429	1
Labour	0.375	0	Labour	0.589285714	1
Unaligned	N/A	N/A	Unaligned	N/A	N/A
UKIP	N/A	N/A	UKIP	N/A	N/A
		7			11

Policy Development Groups			Chief Executive Panels			Shareholder Committee		
Total seats	9		Total seats	3		Total seats	5	
Group	Proportional entitlement	Entitlement rounded	Group	Proportional entitlement	Entitlement rounded	Group	Proportional entitlement	Entitlement rounded
Conservative	7.2	7	Conservative	2.410714286	3	Conservative	4.017857143	4
Independent	0.964285714	1	Independent	0.321428571	0	Independent	0.535714286	1
Labour	0.482142857	1	Labour	0.160714286	0	Labour	0.267857143	0
Unaligned	N/A	N/A	Unaligned	N/A	N/A	Unaligned	N/A	N/A
UKIP	N/A	N/A	UKIP	N/A	N/A	UKIP	N/A	N/A
		9			3			5