



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Council

25 November 2021

Report of: Councillor Kelham Cooke
The Leader of the Council



Membership of Committees

To note the results of two by-elections held on 28 October 2021 and other changes to the Council's political balance and provide Political Group Leaders with an opportunity to review and recommend changes to their respective membership of Committees.

The report also provides Council with an opportunity to establish a working group to oversee the Community Governance Review in respect of a Town Council for Grantham.

Report Author

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
A High Performing Council	Administrative	All Wards
Approved by:	Karen Bradford (Chief Executive)	9 November 2021
Signed off by:	Councillor Kelham Cooke (The Leader of the Council)	17 November 2021

Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

Council:

1. Notes that Councillor Kathleen Rice-Oxley was elected to the Grantham Arnoldfield Ward following a By-Election on 28 October 2021 and has given notice that she will join the Conservative Group.
2. Notes that Councillor Richard Cleaver was elected to the Stamford All Saints Ward following a By-Election on 28 October 2021 and has given notice that he will join the Independent Group.
3. Notes that Councillor Ian Stokes has changed his political affiliation to Independent (non-aligned).
4. Notes that Councillor John Cottier has changed his political affiliation to Independent (aligned to the Conservative Group)

- 5. Notes the revised political proportionality of the Council and the allocation of seats to political groups on the Council's Committees.**
- 6. Approves any changes in the membership of Committees submitted by Political Group Leaders.**
- 7. Approves the establishment of a working group consisting of all Grantham Charter Trustees to lead the Community Governance Review in respect of Grantham.**

1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1 By-Elections for the Grantham Arnoldfield and Stamford All Saints Ward were held on 28 October 2021 following the resignation of former Councillor Helen Goral and the death of former Councillor Mike Exton, respectively.
- 1.2 Councillor Kathleen Rice-Oxley was successfully elected as the South Kesteven District Councillor for the Arnoldfield Ward and has provided notice that she has joined the Council's Conservative Group.
- 1.3 Councillor Richard Cleaver was successfully elected as the South Kesteven District Councillor for the Stamford All Saints Ward and has provided notice that he has joined the Council's Independent Group.
- 1.4 The necessary notice has been provided that Councillor Ian Stokes is an Independent (non-aligned) member of the Council.
- 1.5 The necessary notice has been provided that Councillor John Cottier is an Independent member of the Council, aligned to the Conservative Group.
- 1.6 Councillor Bob Adams of the Grantham Issac Newton Ward sadly passed away on 16 November 2021, which means that there is currently a vacancy on the District Council.
- 1.7 The revised political proportionality of the Council's 56 seats, taking into account one vacancy, is now as follows:

Political Group	Number in Group	Proportionality
Conservative	37	67%
Independent	13	24%
Labour	3	5%
Independent (non-aligned)	2	4%

- 1.8 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 introduced statutory requirements that, where a relevant authority has a membership divided into different political groups, it must ensure that appointments reflect the political balance of the Council as a whole.
- 1.9 The result of the by-elections, the revised political proportionality as a result of changes in political affiliation of two Members and a vacancy on the authority has resulted in one change to the allocation of seats on Committees to political groups. The revised proportionality and allocation of seats to political groups is set out in Appendix 1. The Independent Group is now entitled to a Conservative Group seat on the Licensing Committee, with the new allocation for the Committee's 11 seats being split as follows:
- Conservative – 7 seats
- Independent – 3 seats
- Labour – 1 seat
- 1.10 There is currently a vacancy for a member of the Conservative Group on the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was deferred from the last meeting of Council until after the results of the by-elections held on 28 October 2021.
- 1.11 Councillor Ian Stokes has resigned from all Committees that he sat on, which has resulted in vacant seats for the Conservative Group on the Companies Committee, Governance

and Audit Committee and Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 1.12** The death of Bob Adams has left additional vacancies on the Companies Committee and the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services for the Conservative Group.
- 1.13** The Conservative Group is therefore invited to:
- Propose the removal of one Member from the Licensing Committee
 - Propose the addition of two Members onto the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - Propose the addition of two Members onto the Companies Committee
 - Propose the addition of one Member onto the Governance and Audit Committee
 - Propose the addition of one Member onto the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 1.14** The Independent Group is invited to propose the addition of a Member onto the Licensing Committee.
- 1.15** Political Group Leaders may wish to take this opportunity to review those Members allocated to Committees from their respective political groups. Council is reminded that mandatory training must be undertaken before any Councillor can sit as a Member of the Governance and Audit Committee, Licensing Committee and Planning Committee.
- 1.16** It was agreed at the meeting of full Council held on 30 September 2021 that a Community Governance Review would be undertaken in relation to a Town Council for Grantham. For Community Governance Reviews or Boundary Reviews it would be normal practice for the Council to appoint a cross-party working group to oversee the work associated with the review and make recommendations to Council at the relevant time. It is considered appropriate that all Grantham Charter Trustees be invited to form this working group.
- 1.17** The working group's first task will be to confirm a terms of reference for the Community Governance Review, which would then need to be approved by Council. This formally commences the process, meaning that the review would need to be implemented 12 months from the date of the terms of reference having been adopted.

2 Financial Implications

- 2.1** There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Assistant Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

3 Legal and Governance Implications

- 3.1** Appointments to the Council's Committees must comply with the relevant legislation, as set out in this report, and provisions within the Council's Constitution.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Graham Watts, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

4 Appendices

- 4.1** Appendix 1 – Political Balance