



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



## Council

22 September 2022

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

# Political Proportionality, Allocation of Seats on Committees and Appointment of Armed Forces Lead Member

## Report Author

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## Purpose of Report

To provide Full Council with an update on the political proportionality and allocation of seats on Committees since the last meeting and the opportunity to consider the appointment of an Armed Forces Lead Member.

## Recommendations

### That Council:

1. Notes the revised political proportionality and allocation of seats to Committees
2. Approves the appointment of the nomination from the Independent Group for a seat on the Companies Committee
3. Approves the appointment of Councillor Phil Dilks from the Alliance SK Group on the Licensing Committee and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee
4. Approves the appointment of Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren as the Council's Lead Member for the Armed Forces

### Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	High performing Council
Which wards are impacted?	All or insert specific ward(s)

## Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance and Procurement***

- 1.1 The position of Lead Member for the Armed Forces is not subject to a Special Responsibility Allowance so there will not be any additional financial implications associated with this appointment.

Reviewed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Assistant Director of Finance

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.2 There are no legal or governance implications arising from this report.

Reviewed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance

## **2. Background to the Report**

### **Membership of Committees**

- 2.1 At the meeting of Full Council held on 25 July 2022, consideration was given to the Council's political proportionality and allocation of seats on Committees as a result of the establishment of the Alliance SK political group.
- 2.2 In approving the membership of Committees, the Leader of the Alliance SK Group requested that confirmation as to the appointments from his group be deferred to the next meeting of Full Council. This was agreed at the meeting, with the Group Leader being able to appoint Members temporarily to vacant seats using the substitution provision.

- 2.3 Since the meeting held on 25 July 2022, the Leader of the Alliance SK Group has confirmed that he intends to continue to appoint Members temporarily to vacant seats using the substitution provision for the remainder of the municipal year, with the exception of the Licensing Committee and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee.
- 2.4 Councillor Phil Dilks has been nominated by the Alliance SK Group to fill vacancies on the Licensing Committee and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee.
- 2.5 In addition, since the last meeting of Full Council, Councillor Judy Smith sadly passed away. This means that there is currently a vacancy on the Council.
- 2.6 On 12 September 2022, Councillor Charmaine Morgan provided the necessary notice that she wishes to be treated as an unaligned, independent Councillor and is therefore no longer a member of the Alliance SK Group.
- 2.7 A revised calculation of the Council's political proportionality and allocation of Committee seats is attached at Appendix A, which takes into account the circumstances referred to in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 above.
- 2.8 The only impact on the allocation of seats to Committees relates to the Companies Committee, whereby the Independent Group is entitled to an additional seat, with the Alliance SK Group losing its seat on the Committee.
- 2.9 The Independent Group is therefore invited to nominate a Councillor to sit on the Companies Committee.

### **Appointment of Lead Member for the Armed Forces**

- 2.10 It is proposed that the Lead Member for the Armed Forces will raise the profile of the Armed Forces community within the Council and the wider district. This will involve close liaison with the Council's lead officer, with particular reference to the Council's obligations undertaken through the Armed Forces Covenant.
- 2.11 This role is not part of the Council's executive functions and does not include delegated decision-making powers.

### **3. Key Considerations**

- 3.1 No further decision is required by the Council regarding membership of Committees at this stage.
- 3.2 The Leader of the Council has nominated Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren as the Council's Lead Member for the Armed Forces.

#### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 To make any other changes to the membership of Committees.
- 4.2 To propose other nominations for the role of Lead Member for the Armed Forces.

#### **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 5.1 To ensure that the Council has sufficient representation on Committees and in other roles deemed necessary or appropriate.

#### **6. Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendix A – Political balance and allocation of seats to Committees