



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



## Council

26 January 2023

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

# Political Proportionality, Allocation of Seats on Committees and Appointment to Outside Bodies

## 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, taking into account the results of a by-election held on 15 December 2022 and the formation of a new political group on the authority.

## Recommendations

### That Council:

1. Notes the revised political proportionality and allocation of seats to Committees
2. Approves the appointment of any nominations from the Conservative Group for two vacant seats on the Planning Committee
3. Approves the appointment of any nominations from the Democratic Independents Group to any seats on Committees allocated to the Group
4. Approves any other nominations from Political Groups to make appointments or changes to the membership of Committees
5. Approves any appointments or changes to the membership of Outside Bodies

### 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Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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 There are no financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

Reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Chief Finance Officer

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

- 1.2 Members of the Governance and Audit Committee, Licensing Committee and Planning Committee are required to attend mandatory training in accordance with the Constitution before being able to sit as a Member of the respective Committees.

Reviewed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

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

- 2.1 A by-election for a vacant seat in the Toller Ward was held on 15 December 2022 and Councillor Murray Turner was elected.

- 2.2 On 4 January 2023 the necessary notice was provided regarding the formation of a new political group on the Council called the Democratic Independents Group. Councillor Philip Knowles is Leader of the Group, Councillor Richard Cleaver is Deputy Leader of the Group and Councillors Harrish Bisnauthsing, Paul Fellows, Anna Kelly, Murray Turner and Amanda Wheeler have given notice that they wish to be aligned to the Group.

- 2.3 As the largest opposition political group on the authority, the Democratic Independents Group is the Council's official opposition group, with Councillor Philip Knowles designated as Leader of the Opposition.
- 2.4 The necessary notice was provided on 16 December 2022 that Councillor Matthew Lee wishes to be treated as an independent Councillor, unaligned from any other political group.
- 2.5 On 13 January 2023 notice was received that Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew is no longer a member of the Conservative Group and will be treated as an independent Councillor, unaligned from any other political group.
- 2.6 A revised calculation of the Council's political proportionality and allocation of Committee seats is attached at Appendix A which takes into account these changes.
- 2.7 As reported at the previous meeting of Full Council, Councillor Rosemary Kaberry-Brown resigned as a Councillor representing Peascliffe and Ridgeway Ward on 17 November 2022. Due to the timing of the Council's scheduled all-out elections on 4 May 2023, it is not possible to hold a by-election for this vacancy. This vacancy is reflected in calculations set out in Appendix A.

### **Committee Appointments**

- 2.8 The formation of a new political group has impacted the allocation of seats to committees. This impact is summarised, as follows:
- Planning Committee – the Independent Group loses 2 seats and the Democratic Independents Group gains 2 seats
  - Licensing Committee (and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee) – the Conservative Group loses 1 seat, the Independent Group loses 1 seat and the Democratic Independents Group gains 2 seats
  - Governance and Audit Committee – the Alliance SK Group loses 1 seat and the Democratic Independents Group gains 1 seat
  - Constitution Committee – the Independent Group loses 1 seat and the Democratic Independents Group gains 1 seat
  - Employment Committee – the Alliance SK Group loses 1 seat and the Democratic Independents Group gains 1 seat
  - Companies Committee – the Conservative Group loses 1 seat and the Democratic Independents Group gains 1 seat
  - Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – the Independent Group loses 1 seat and the Democratic Independents Group gains 1 seat
  - Culture and Visitor Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee – the Independent Group loses 1 seat and the Democratic Independents Group gains 1 seat

- Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – the Independent Group loses 1 seat and the Democratic Independents Group gains 1 seat
- Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – the Alliance SK Group loses 1 seat and the Democratic Independents Group gains 1 seat

- 2.9 Due to the proportionality associated with the Alliance SK Group and the Independent Group, each comprising of three Members, it has been necessary for the Leaders of both Groups to agree between them which Group be allocated the final seat on those Committees with a size of 7 Members. The impact at paragraph 2.8 above, together with Appendix A, reflect the agreement reached by the two Group Leaders.
- 2.10 There are currently two vacancies for the Conservative Group on the Council's Planning Committee. The Conservative Group is therefore invited to nominate Members to fill these vacancies.
- 2.11 Political Groups are invited to confirm nominations associated with their respective Groups in respect of the Council's Committees based upon the revised political proportionality and Committee seat allocation.

### **Outside Bodies**

- 2.12 This report provides the Council with an opportunity to make any amendments to its membership on Outside Bodies that may be necessary prior to the Council's Annual Meeting.

## **3. Key Considerations**

- 3.1 As set out above.

## **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 To make any other changes to the membership of Committees.

## **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