



Appointments to Committees and Panels of the Council

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

All Political Group Leaders are responsible for nominating Members from within their respective Groups to each of the Committees/Panels, in accordance with the political proportionality of the Authority as appropriate.

Recommendations

Full Council is asked to:

- 1. Note the changes in political proportionality of the Council and the consequent allocation of seats on committees (Appendix A).**
- 2. Appoint Members to its Committees and Panels, in accordance with political balance.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate priorities?

Effective council

Which wards are impacted?

(All Wards);

1. 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 implications associated with this report.

Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

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

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. At the annual meeting of Full Council, Members decided the allocation of seats to political groups, in accordance with the Regulations. Members are asked to do this again in light of a new political grouping being formed.
- 2.3. Those appointments to which the rules of political balance apply are:
- Ordinary Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council.
 - Advisory Committees and any Sub-Committees appointed by an Advisory Committee.
 - Specified prescribed bodies where at least three seats have to be filled by the relevant Authority

- 2.4 The legislation also requires that in appointing members on a politically proportional basis, it should give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the following principles:
- a) That not all seats are appointed to the same political groups.
 - b) That a political group with an overall Council majority gets a majority of seats allocated.
 - c) Subject to a) and b) that the total number of seats each political group has on all ordinary Committees is in proportion to that group's share of seats on the whole Council.
 - d) Subject to a) and c) that each political group has the same proportion of seats as it holds on the Council as a whole.
- 2.5 The Regulations mean that Members who are not aligned to a political group are not considered as part of the calculation. They do not have a right to be appointed to any Council Committee or Panel.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1. When making appointments, the following factors must be taken into consideration:
- In order to demonstrate a robust and effective scrutiny process, no member of Cabinet may sit on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
 - Membership of the Chief Executive's Appeal Panel must include at least one member of Cabinet.
 - Members of the Chief Executive's Appeal Panel should not be Members of the Employment Committee. This is to ensure that any appeal lodged is considered by Members who have not previously been involved with any matters being challenged.
- 3.2 Political groups can 'gift' any of their allocated seats to another political group, or to a designated individual Member of the Council.
- 3.3 Under a political balance calculation across all seats on ordinary committees, groups are allocated a proportion of committee seats which closely matches their percentage of seats on Full Council.
- 3.4 Each political Group leader was required to appoint a representative to the UKPSF Board. These appointments would sit alongside the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and the Chairman of Finance & Economic and Rural & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The membership of this Board has been established and is not part of these calculations. Councillor David Bellamy was appointed as the representative for Reform UK.

4. Committee Changes

- 4.1 On 17 July 2025 notice was received that a new group had been formed containing three previous members of the Conservative Group – named the ‘Reform UK Group’ - with Councillor Ben Green as Leader and Councillor Graham Jeal as Deputy Leader. This means that the Conservative Group now contains 19 members.
- 4.2 Under a political balance calculation across all seats on ordinary committees, groups are allocated a proportion of committee seats which closely matches their percentage of seats on Full Council. These calculations are attached at Appendix A.
- 4.3 Group Leaders met on 8 September 2025 and endorsed the following amendments/additions to committees in light of this group change:
- **Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee** – Conservatives lose one seat (currently a vacancy) to be taken by Reform UK group.
 - **Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee** – SK Independents lose one seat (currently gifted to Councillor Habib Rahman) to be taken by Reform UK group.
 - **Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** – Liberal Democrats and Democratic Independents to lose one seat each (Councillors Habib Rahman and Pam Byrd) to be taken by Independent Group (Councillor James Denniston) and the Labour and Co-operative group (Councillor Lee Steptoe). This left a Grantham Independent Group vacancy, which has been gifted to Councillor Habib Rahman (Liberal Democrats).
 - **Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee** - Conservatives lose one seat (Councillor Nikki Manterfield) to be taken by Reform UK group.
 - **Planning Committee** - Conservatives lose one seat (currently a vacancy) to be taken by Reform UK group.
 - **Standards Committee** - Conservatives lose one seat (currently a vacancy) to be taken by Reform UK group.
- 4.4 Councillor Tim Harrison, Leader of the Grantham Independent Group notified officers that Councillor Ian Selby was no longer a member of the Finance and Economic Overview & Scrutiny Committee, leaving a vacancy. It is proposed that this will be filled by Councillor Tim Harrison.
- 4.5 Councillor Graham Jeal is no longer a member of the Conservative Group and it is proposed that the Conservative vacancy on the Chief Executive’s Appeals Panel will be filled by Councillor Nikki Manterfield.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 Full Council must make appointments as prescribed by legislation and the Council's Constitution. The report facilitates this requirement.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The latest political balance calculation for the Council has been shared and discussed with Political Group Leaders in advance of the publication of this report.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/42/contents>
- 7.2 Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1990/1553/contents/made>

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – political balance.
- 8.2 Appendix B – proposed appointments to committees