

---

**POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

Committee: Annual Council

Date: 30 May 2019

Author: Democratic Services Manager

[U3]

---

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 To receive details of the political balance of the Council and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 That Council notes the details of the political balance of the Council as set out in Appendix 1 and approves the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies as set out in Appendix 2, or agrees an alternative (on a Nem Con basis, if necessary).

3.0 **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is a table showing the allocation of places on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies in accordance with the requirements of the proportionality rules. Under Section 15(5)(a) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (see below), all seats on a Committee/Sub-Committee cannot be allocated to the same Political Group.

3.2 Group Leaders have been advised of the number of places available on each Committee to be filled by their Groups, and of any necessary adjustments to be made between the political Groups in their overall seat allocations.

3.3 At the Annual Council meeting held on 14 May 2013, the dissolution of the Council's Scrutiny Committee was approved. Similarly, the revised Committee structures approved by the Council on 15 April 2014, 11 April 2017 and 11 April 2019 did not include a Scrutiny Committee.

3.4 Agenda Item 15 deals with the appointments to be made to fill those places on Committees and other Member bodies.

4.0 **THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989**

4.1 Section 15(5) of the Act sets down the principles for the allocation of seats on Committees between the political Groups on the Council. The principles are applied in sequence and provide a safeguard to enable any distortion caused by rounding up or down to be remedied. The principles require, in effect, that:

- (a) all seats are not allocated to the same political Group.
- (b) the majority of seats are allocated to the political Group having a majority of the authority's membership.
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the TOTAL of all committees allocated to a political Group bears the same proportion as the proportion of the seats held on full Council (this principle allows any accumulated distortion caused by rounding up or down in (d) below to be remedied).
- (d) subject to (a) to (c) above, the number of seats on each Committee allocated to a political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on full Council.

4.2 The effect of rounding up or down across the overall number of seats to be allocated on Committees can be quite significant which is why the principles explicitly provide for any distortion to be rectified.

#### 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None arising from this report.

| <u>Background Documents</u>   | <u>Location</u>                | <u>Contact Officer</u>   |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Section 15)<br>Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 | Room 214B<br>The Grange<br>Ely | Tracy Couper<br>Democratic Services Manager<br>(01353) 665555<br>E-mail:<br><a href="mailto:tracy.couper@eastcambs.gov.uk">tracy.couper@eastcambs.gov.uk</a> |

**POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

28 Members aligned to Political Groups

28 aligned Members – 51 seats: 1 Member = 1.821 seats

**APPENDIX 1**

| <b>PARTY</b>     | <b>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</b> | <b>PROPORTION OF TOTAL</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Conservative     | 15                        | 53.57%                     |
| Liberal Democrat | 13                        | 46.43%                     |
|                  | 28                        | 100%                       |

| <b>BODY</b>  | <b>TOTAL MEMBERS ON BODY</b> | <b>CONSERVATIVE</b><br>[proportion of seats:<br>53.57%] |           | <b>LIBERAL DEMOCRAT</b><br>[proportion of seats:<br>46.43%] |           |
|--|------------------------------|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| Full Council   | 28                           | 15  | 15        | 13  | 13        |
| Finance & Assets   | 9                            | 4.821   | 5         | 4.179   | 4         |
| Operational Services   | 9                            | 4.821   | 5         | 4.179   | 4         |
| Others:  |                              |   |           |   |           |
| Licensing  | 10                           | 5.357   | 5         | 4.643   | 5         |
| Planning   | 11                           | 5.893   | 6         | 5.107   | 5         |
| F&A Hearings Sub-Cttee   | 7                            | 3.750   | 4         | 3.250   | 3         |
| Licensing Sub-Cttee  | 5                            | 2.679   | 3         | 2.322   | 2         |
| <b>Total Seats on ordinary committees under strict proportionality</b> | <b>51</b>                    | <b>27.321</b>   | <b>28</b> | <b>23.679</b>   | <b>23</b> |
| <b>Total Seats</b>   | <b>51</b>                    | <b>27 (need to cede 1)</b>                              |           | <b>24 (Need to gain 1)</b>                                  |           |

Notes:

Following consultation with Group Leaders, the Conservative Group have ceded one place on Licensing Sub-Committee to the Liberal Democrat Group.

Proportionality does not apply to Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee and previously it has been agreed by a Nem Con vote that proportionality should not be applied to Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee. The following allocations were agreed as a result of consultation with Group Leaders for 2019/20:

|   | Total Members on Body | Conservative | Liberal Democrat | Independent |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee | 1                     | 1            | 0                | 0           |
| Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee             | 3                     | 2            | 1                | 0           |

**POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

28 Members aligned to Political Groups

28 aligned Members – 51 seats: 1 Member = 1.821 seats

**APPENDIX 2**

| <b>PARTY</b>     | <b>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</b> | <b>PROPORTION OF TOTAL</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Conservative     | 15                        | 53.57%                     |
| Liberal Democrat | 13                        | 46.43%                     |
|                  | 28                        | 100%                       |

| <b>BODY</b>  | <b>TOTAL MEMBERS ON BODY</b> | <b>CONSERVATIVE</b><br>[proportion of seats:<br>53.57%] |           | <b>LIBERAL DEMOCRAT</b><br>[proportion of seats:<br>46.43%] |           |
|--|------------------------------|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| Full Council   | 28                           | 15  | 15        | 13  | 13        |
| Finance & Assets   | 9                            | 4.821   | 5         | 4.179   | 4         |
| Operational Services   | 9                            | 4.821   | 5         | 4.179   | 4         |
| Others:  |                              |   |           |   |           |
| Licensing  | 10                           | 5.357   | 5         | 4.643   | 5         |
| Planning   | 11                           | 5.893   | 6         | 5.107   | 5         |
| F&A Hearings Sub-Cttee   | 7                            | 3.750   | 4         | 3.250   | 3         |
| Licensing Sub-Cttee  | 5                            | -   | 2         | -   | 3         |
| <b>Total Seats on ordinary committees under strict proportionality</b> | <b>51</b>                    | <b>27.321</b>   | <b>27</b> | <b>23.679</b>   | <b>24</b> |
| <b>Total Seats</b>   | <b>51</b>                    | <b>27</b>   |           | <b>24</b>   |           |

Notes:

Following consultation with Group Leaders, the Conservative Group have ceded one place on Licensing Sub-Committee to the Liberal Democrat Group.

Proportionality does not apply to Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee and previously it has been agreed by a Nem Con vote that proportionality should not be applied to Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee. The following allocations were agreed as a result of consultation with Group Leaders for 2019/20:

|   | Total Members on Body | Conservative | Liberal Democrat | Independent |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee | 1                     | 1            | 0                | 0           |
| Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee             | 3                     | 2            | 1                | 0           |