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| Report To: | Full Council |
| Date: | 21 st July 2025 |
| Subject: | Allocation of Seats Review |
| Purpose: | To review committee, panel and working group seat allocation and make appointments in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. |
| Key Decision: | N/A |
| Portfolio Holder: | N/A |
| Report Of: | John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer |
| Report Author: | Amanda Dickinson, Democratic Services Team Leader |
| Ward(s) Affected: | None |
| Exempt Report: | No |

Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out a revised allocation of seats and associated appointments for the Council's committees/panels and working groups following a review of political group membership.

Recommendations

That the Council approves the revised allocation of seats and appointments to Committees, Panels and Working Groups f as detailed in Appendix 1 (to follow) for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2025/26.

Reasons for Recommendations

To comply with legal requirements as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Other Options Considered

The Council may agree alternative seat allocation arrangements other than those prescribed by the 1989 Act and the 1990 Regulations. A decision in these circumstances would require no member to vote against the proposed alternative arrangements.

1. Background

- 1.1 At its Annual Meeting on 19th May 2025, the Council appointed its Committees, Panels and Working Groups in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations.
- 1.2 On 11th July 2025 the Proper Officer received notice that a new political group had formed. Accordingly, a review of the allocation of seats is now required. The outcome of the review will be reported to the Full Council Meeting on 21 July 2025 where Council will be asked to approve a revised allocation of seats and appointments to its committees, panels and working groups (Appendix 1 – to follow).

2. Report

- 2.1 Under Regulation 16 of the 1990 Regulations, where some of the members of the relevant authority are members of one or more political groups and the others are not, the Council's obligations are as follows:
 - i) To determine the proportion of the total membership of the Council who are members of one or more political groups and ensure that the same proportion of the total number of seats to be filled is allocated to each of the political groups in the proportion that the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the authority; and
 - ii) To secure that persons appointed to any seats that do not fall to be allocated to a political group under the above requirement are not allocated to a person who is a member of a political group.
- 2.3 Having determined the overall seat allocations, the next step is to allocate the seat allocations to individual bodies. The 1989 Act requires the Council to apply the following principles in sequential order and as far as reasonably practicable when determining seat allocations:
 - a) That not all the seats on a body are allocated to the same political group.

- b) If the number of persons belonging to a political group is a majority of the authority's membership, then the majority of seats on a body are allocated to that political group.
- c) That subject to (a) and (b) the number of seats allocated to a political group on the ordinary committees of the Council should bear the same proportion to all the seats on such ordinary committees as the membership of that group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole.
- d) That subject to (a), (b) and (c) the number of seats allocated to a political group on a body should bear the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as the membership of that group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole.

2.4 Once the allocation of seats has been determined, there is a duty on the Council to give effect to the allocation by making appointments to seats in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 The Council is required to review the allocation of seats and make appointments in accordance with the law relating to political proportionality. The recommendations within this report meet these requirements.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None.

Corporate Priorities

None.

Staffing

None.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The legal implications are contained within the body of the report..

Data Protection

None.

Financial

The costs of delivering the Council's Committee structures are factored into the approved Council budget.

Risk Management

None.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

Group Leaders are consulted as part of the review process.

Reputation

None.

Contracts

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

None.

Health and Wellbeing

None.

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

Not undertaken.

Acronyms

None.

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

| Document title | Where the document can be viewed. |
|--------------------------|---|
| The Council Constitution | <u>Council Constitution</u> |

Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

Report Approval

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