



<b>Report To:</b>	Full Council
<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	Democratic Arrangements – Allocation of Seats Review and Appointments to Outside Bodies 2025/26
<b>Purpose:</b>	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 and to enable the Council to make appointments to outside bodies for the 2025/26 Civic Year, where vacancies have arisen since the Annual Meeting in May 2025.
<b>Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	N/A
<b>Report Of:</b>	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer
<b>Report Author:</b>	Amanda Dickinson, Democratic Services Team Leader
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	None
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	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; and to make appointments to outside bodies where vacancies have arisen.

### Recommendations

That the Council approves the revised allocation of seats and appointments to:

1. Committees, Panels and Working Groups as detailed in Appendix 1 (to follow) for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2025/26; and

2. That the Council seeks nominations and makes appointments to the outside bodies listed in Appendix 2 – Part 1 and Part 2 (to follow), where vacancies have arisen, with such appointments to automatically cease either at the end of the Civic Year (for Part 1 bodies) or in May 2027 (for Part 2 bodies), or earlier if the appointed Member ceases to be a Member of the Council.

### **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; and to support the work of the outside bodies listed in Appendix 2.

### **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.
- Not to make the appointments to the outside bodies.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 At its Annual Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Council appointments were also made to various outside bodies for the Civic Year 2025/26.
- 1.2 On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025, the Proper Officer received notice that Cllr Anton Dani had joined the Progressive Independent Group alongside a request for a review of committee seats.

## **2. Report**

### **2.1. Committee Appointments**

- 2.1.1. 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.

2.1.2. 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.

2.1.3. 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.

2.1.4. Group Leaders have been advised of these changes and invited to submit appointments for Council's consideration. These will be circulated prior to the meeting.

## **2.2. Vacancies on Outside Bodies**

2.2.1. Since the Annual Meeting vacancies have arisen on the following bodies:

- Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board – 1 vacancy
- Witham Fourth Internal Drainage Board – 2 vacancies

2.2.2. Group Leaders have been advised of the vacancies and invited to submit nominations for Council's consideration. These will be circulated prior to the meeting.

2.2.3. Any appointments made by the Council to these vacancies will take effect immediately following approval and will automatically cease at the end of the Civic Year or if the appointed Member ceases to be a Member of the Council.

2.2.4. Following a resignation, a vacancy has arisen for a Trustee of the Thomas Sanderson Charity. In accordance with the charity's constitution, Boston Borough Council is entitled to appoint either one Council representative and one lay person, or two lay persons, to serve as Nominated Trustees. Appointments are made for a

term of four years and may be, but do not have to be, elected Members of the Council. The appointment will run until May 2027 or until the appointed individual ceases to be a Member of the Council (if applicable).

### **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**

To meet the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council's Constitution, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Local Government (Committee and Political Group) Regulations 1990, the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Authority (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

Appointments are made in accordance with the provisions set out in the Council's Constitution.

The powers of the Council (as a charging authority) to appoint an individual as a member of an internal drainage board are set out in the Land Drainage Act 1991. In appointing a person as a Board member the Council shall have regard to the desirability of appointing a person who –

- (a) has knowledge or experience (including knowledge of the internal drainage district in question or commercial experience) of some matter relevant to the functions of the board; and
- (b) has shown capacity in such a matter.

#### **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; and details of vacancies are shared with Political Group Leaders.

## **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:

Appendix 1	Membership of Committees, Panels and Working Groups (to follow)
Appendix 2	Council vacancies on Outside Bodies 2025/26 (to follow)

## **Background Papers**

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

## **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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