

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To agree the revised allocation of committee seats to ensure political proportionality, following the Selston by-election.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The County Council is under a duty to review the allocation of seats to political groups where there is a change to the membership of political groups. As reported earlier, Councillor David Martin was elected at the Selston by-election on 25 November 2015 and has joined the Ashfield Independents Group.
3. The membership of the County Council is therefore now as follows: -

Labour Group	32
Conservative Group	21
Liberal Democrat Group	5
Ashfield Independents Group	4
Independent Group	2
Non Aligned Members	3
Total	67

4. In determining the membership of committees, account must be taken of the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The legislation requires that seats on committees and sub-committees are allocated in a way which reflects the overall balance on the Council.
5. There are four principles which apply to ensure political balance: -
  - a. All seats on one single committee cannot be allocated to the same political group
  - b. If a group has an overall majority on Council they must have an overall majority on every committee
  - c. Subject to a and b, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all the committees taken together must be proportionate to their strength on Council. There are

241 seats on all of the ordinary committees of Council and the proportions for each group will be detailed within the finalised appendix.

- d. Subject to a, b and c, each political party must be allocated that number of seats on each committee taken individually as is proportionate to their strength on Council

6. The proposed allocation of seats is shown in Appendix A.

### **Other Options Considered**

7. None - seats must be allocated in line with the above political balance principles.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

8. To meet the Council's duty to review the allocation of seats to political groups on a change in political group membership, in order to ensure seat allocation is made in accordance with the principles of proportionality prescribed by law.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) To approve the allocation of committee seats, as set out in the appendix, in order to fulfil the statutory requirement for political balance on committees.

**Anthony May**  
**Chief Executive**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (SLB 10/12/15)**

10. Council is the only body authorised to determine the allocation of seats on Committees of Council.

### **Financial Comments (SES 10/12/15)**

11. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All