



**Council
14 October 2019**

Appointments to Committees

Purpose of report

Further to recent changes in the makeup of political groups on East Northamptonshire Council on 28 May 2019, this report updates the entitlement to seats on committees and provides for nominations to committees to be approved at the Council meeting.

Attachments

None

1.0 Background

1.1 Council is required by law to allocate seats on its committees and other prescribed bodies so as to give effect to political balance rules set out in sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Local Government Committee and Political Group Regulations 1990.

1.2 Political balance should always be recalculated in the following instances:-

- i) Following every election or by-election to the Council;
- ii) Prior to every annual meeting of the Council;
- iii) Following the creation or abolition of any of the prescribed committees or bodies set out in the regulations;
- iv) Following any change to political groupings.

1.3 At the extraordinary Council meeting held on 26 June 2019, following the resignation of Cllr Marika Hillson, Council resolved to postpone making appointments to its committees and prescribed bodies as a result of changes to political balance until after the outcome of the Irthlingborough Waterloo Ward by-election was known. The makeup of Council at that point was as follows:-

Conservative Group	Independent Group	Other
36 seats	2 seats	1 Labour Seat 1 vacancy

2.0 Further changes in the makeup of political groups

2.1 On 8 September 2019 Cllr Lance Jones resigned from the Conservative Group and joined the Independent Group.

2.2 On 26 September 2019 Cllr Pam Whiting resigned as a councillor, which will prompt a by-election in the Higham Ferrers Lancaster Ward.

2.3 On 30 September 2019 Councillor Anna Sauntson also resigned as a councillor. This will prompt a by-election in the Higham Ferrers Chichele Ward.

- 2.4 At the time of writing, the date/s of the by-elections is not yet known, the notice of vacancies being issued on Monday 7 October 2019.
- 2.5 In accordance with paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3 above, the changes in the makeup of political groups require a recalculation of political balance and a change in appointments to committees and other prescribed bodies on the Council. The makeup of Council is now:-

Conservative Group	Independent Group	Other
34 seats	3 seats	1 Labour Seat 2 vacancies

3.0 Political Balance of Committees

- 3.1 Political balance applies to seats on the follow council bodies (Local Govt & Housing Act 1989, Section 15):-
- a) An ordinary committee or sub-committee of the authority;
 - b) An advisory committee and any sub-committee appointed by an advisory committee.
 - c) A number of prescribed bodies where at least three seats have to be filled by the relevant authority, (Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Schedule 1, paragraph 2), which includes a joint committee appointed under the LGA 1972, s.102(1)(b). This includes the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee.
- 3.2 In calculating the representation of political groups (noting that a group must contain at least 2 members), these are required to be in the same proportion in which the whole Council is divided, subject to:-
- a. that not all seats are allocated to the same political group;
 - b. that a political group with an overall 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 the total Council elected membership; and
 - 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.

3.3 Entitlements to seats on the Council's committees, sub-committees and other prescribed bodies have now been re-calculated and are as follows:-

	Conservative Group Entitlement	Independent Group Entitlement	Vacant Committee Places	TOTAL
Policy and Resources (15 seats)	13	1	1	15
Planning Policy (15)	13	1	1	15
Planning Management (15)	15	1	2	18
Licensing (15)	13	1	1	15
Transformation Committee (15)	13	1	1	15
Governance and Audit (10)	9	1	0	10
Finance and Performance Subcommittee (7)	6	1	0	7
Personnel Subcommittee (7)	6	1	0	7
Grievance Committee (3)	2	1	0	3
North Northamptonshire Joint Committee (3)	2	1	0	3
TOTAL	92	10	6	108

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

5.0 Privacy Implications

5.1 There are no privacy implications arising from this report.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 The Council can only depart from the rules governed by the 1990 committee and political balance regulations by passing a resolution with no members voting against.

6.2 This report ensures that ENC is meeting its legal obligations.

7.0 Risk Implications

7.1 There are no discernible risk implications arising from the contents of this report.

8.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

8.1 There are no discernible equality and diversity implications arising from the contents of this report.

9.0 Constitutional Implications

9.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

10.0 Customer Service Implications

10.1 There are no customer service implications arising from this report.

11 Corporate Outcomes

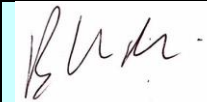
11.1 The Corporate Outcome to which this approach contributes is Effective Management – legal compliance.

12.0 Recommendations

12.1 Council is asked to:

- a) Approve changes to appointments to its committees and prescribed bodies as a result of changes to political balance, to be nominated by Group Leaders at the Council meeting.

[Reason: To comply with committee and political balance regulations].

Legal	Power: Local Government Act 1972				
	Other considerations: Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Local Government Committee and Political Group Regulations 1990.				
Background Papers: None					
Person Originating Report: Ben Smith, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager					
Date: 2 October 2019					
CFO		MO 3/10/19		CX 3/10/19	