



## Council 25 January 2020

### Appointments to Committees

#### Purpose of report

Further to recent changes in the makeup of political groups on East Northamptonshire Council, this report updates the entitlement to seats on committees, and provides for nominations to those 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 Annual meeting of the Council, the political balance was as follows:-

Conservative Group	Independent Group	Other
36 seats	3 seats	1 Labour Seat

#### 2.0 Recent Changes in the makeup of political groups

2.1 Councillor Ron Pinnock sadly passed away in October 2020.

2.2 Councillor Jake Vowles left the Conservative Group to become an unaligned independent in November 2020.

- 2.3 Accordingly, 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:-

<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>	<b>Other</b>
34 seats	3 seats	1 Labour 1 unaligned independent 1 vacancy

### 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):-

- An ordinary committee or sub-committee of the authority;
- An advisory committee and any sub-committee appointed by an advisory committee.
- 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:-

- that not all seats are allocated to the same political group;
- that a political group with an overall majority gets a majority of seats allocated;
- 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
- 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:-

	<b>Conservative Group Entitlement</b>	<b>Independent Group Entitlement</b>	<b>Vacant Committee Places</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Policy and Resources (15 seats)	14	1*	0	<b>15</b>
Planning Policy (15)	13 (-1)	1	1 (+1)	<b>15</b>
Planning Management (18)	15 (-2)	1	2 (+2)	<b>18</b>
Licensing (15)	13 (-1)	1	1 (+1)	<b>15</b>
Governance and Audit (10)	8 (-1)	1	1 (+1)	<b>10</b>
Finance and Performance Subcommittee (7)	6	1	0	<b>7</b>
Personnel Subcommittee (7)	6	1	0	<b>7</b>
Grievance Committee (3)	2	1	0	<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77 (-5)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5 (+5)</b>	<b>90</b>

- Council, at the May 2020 Annual Meeting, approved the granting of the Independent Group's seat on the Policy and Resources Committee to that of Cllr Farrer, the single Labour member on the Council.

#### **4.0 Changes to Committee Membership**

- 4.1 Since the last calculation of seats on committees was undertaken, although the Conservative Group's overall entitlement of number of seats has reduced by 5, because it was carrying vacancies there is no practical impact on its actual membership of those committees, with no changes required.
- 4.2 Following consultation with the Group Leaders, the only resultant change proposed to committee membership is that Cllr Jake Vowles, as a recently unaligned independent, sit on the Planning Policy Committee as an unaligned independent.
- 4.3 In accordance with political balance regulations, such an appointment will require no members present at the council meeting voting against the proposal.

#### **5.0 Financial Implications**

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

#### **6.0 Privacy Implications**

- 6.1 There are no privacy implications arising from this report.

#### **7.0 Legal Implications**

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 This report ensures that ENC is meeting its legal obligations.

#### **8.0 Risk Implications**

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

#### **9.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

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

#### **10.0 Constitutional Implications**

- 10.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

#### **11.0 Customer Service Implications**

- 11.1 There are no customer service implications arising from this report.

#### **12 Corporate Outcomes**



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

#### **13.0 Recommendations**

- 13.1 Council is asked to note the changes to political balance and approve the following change to appointments to its committees and prescribed bodies:

- a) That Cllr Jake Vowles be appointed to the Planning Policy Committee, noting the voting requirements in 6.1 above.

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

<b>Legal</b>	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.				
<b>Background Papers:</b> None					
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Ben Smith, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager					
<b>Date:</b> 14 January 2020					
<b>CFO</b> 15/01/21		<b>MO (Deputy)</b> 15/01/21		<b>CX</b> 15/01/21	