

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**21 MAY 2015**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES,  
COMMITTEE SPOKESPERSONS AND CONSULTEES,  
MEMBERSHIP OF FORUMS, PARTNERSHIPS, WORKING GROUPS,  
OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS, APPOINTMENT OF LEAD MEMBERS  
AND CONSTITUTION OF LEISURE VISION WORKING GROUP**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The Council is to consider and determine the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub Committees in accordance with the political balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended) and receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016.

1.2 The Council is requested to consider and determine the proposals of the political groups for the following whilst taking into consideration the principle that where a large group occupies all but one or two seats on the Council, the first rule prohibiting single party Committees takes precedence, and the Council must make one place available for the other Councillors on each Committee/Sub Committee :-

(a) nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and Sub Committee, including substitutes, for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016 (Appendix A) as well as the group's Committee Spokespersons and Consultees (Appendix Ai);

(b) the positions of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and Sub Committees for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016 (Appendix B);

(c) membership of Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016 (Appendix C);

(d) appointments to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016 (Appendix D);

(e) Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016 (Appendix E).

1.3 To consider the constitution of a politically balanced Leisure Vision Working Group comprising 9 Members (Appendix F).

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **To approve the political balance percentages and number of seats allocated to each political group as set out in the table at paragraph 3.3.**

2.2 **To approve the allocation of Councillors to each Committee and Sub Committees as set out at paragraphs 3.4 and 3.6 and the nominations, including substitutes, as submitted by the Political Group Leader for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016 (Appendix A);**

- 2.3 To approve the political group's nominations for Committee spokespersons and consultees (Appendix Ai);
- 2.4 To approve the proposals of the political group for the positions of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and for the Sub-Committees for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016 (Appendix B).
- 2.5 To approve the proposals of the political group for membership of Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016 (Appendix C).
- 2.6 To approve the proposals of the political group for membership to Outside Organisations for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016 (Appendix D).
- 2.7 To approve the proposals of the political group to the positions of Lead Members for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016 (Appendix E).
- 2.8 To note that political balance is not required for the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.
- 2.9 To note that in accordance with the political balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended) political balance is to be achieved in total across all the Committees and within all individual Committees requiring political balance and to note also that political balance applies to Sub-Committees as required.
- 2.10 To note the principle that where a large group occupies all but one or two seats on the Council, the first rule prohibiting single party Committees takes precedence, and the Council must make one place available for the other Councillor(s) on each Committee/Sub Committee.
- 2.11 To approve the constitution of a politically balanced Leisure Vision Working Group comprising 9 Members as set out in Appendix F.

### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Sections 15-17 (as amended) explains that the Council is required to allocate seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance of the Council. The Act also states that political balance is required not only across the Committees but also within each Committee and Sub Committee.
- 3.2 Where political balance requirements apply, the Council may vary the requirements by resolution provided that no Member of the Council votes against the resolution.
- 3.3 The following table shows the number of Councillors in a political group, the percentage of representation required within the Council and the allocation of seats over the 6 Committees that require to be politically balanced :-

Group	No. of Councillors	Percentage	Allocation of Seats over 6 Committees
Conservative	26	92.86%	53.01 = 53
Independent Cllr 1	1	3.57%	2.28 = 2

Independent Cllr 2	1	3.57%	2.28 = 2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>57 seats</b>

3.4 The following table gives the allocation of seats in accordance with political balance given the percentages involved :-

2015-16	APP	CSA	GOV	PFA	PLNG	REEA	TOTAL
Conservative	4 (4.64%)	9 (9.28%)	9 (9.28%)	9 (9.28%)	10 (10.21%)	10 (10.21%)	<b>51</b>
Ind Cllr 1	1 (0.18%)	1 (0.35%)	1 (0.35%)	0 (0.35%)	0 (0.39%)	0 (0.39%)	<b>3</b>
Ind Cllr 2	0 (0.18%)	0 (0.35%)	0 (0.35%)	1 (0.35%)	1 (0.39%)	1 (0.39%)	<b>3</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b> ✓	<b>10</b> ✓	<b>10</b> ✓	<b>10</b> ✓	<b>11</b> ✓	<b>11</b> ✓	<b>57</b>

3.5 The two Independent Councillors are entitled to 2 seats each. However the legislation advises that where a large group occupies all but one or two seats on the Council, the first rule prohibiting single party Committees takes precedence, and the Council must make one place available for the other Councillor(s) on each Committee/Sub Committee. This means that even though the political balance calculations allow the two Councillors 4 places on Committees between them, there is a requirement to make a seat available on each Committee which means between the two Councillors they would be allocated 6 seats (2 more than in the table at paragraph 3.3) and there would then be 51 seats available for the Conservative Group (2 less than in the table at paragraph 3.3).

The table at paragraph 3.4 balances within Committees with the Conservative Group taking its allocation in all but the Appeals Committee. In the Appeals Committee the political balance calculations allocate the whole number of 5 seats to the Conservative Group however to ensure the majority group is not occupying all the seats, it is proposed that 1 seat be allocated to the two Independent Councillors between them. The same principle is applied to the Governance Sub Committees shown in paragraph 3.6.

3.6 With regard to the Governance Sub Committees 1 and 2, the following table shows the allocation of seats and that the Sub Committees are politically balanced :-

2015-16	Governance Sub Cttees 1 & 2	TOTAL
Conservative	4.64%	<b>4</b>
Ind Cllr 1	0.18%	<b>1</b>
Ind Cllr 2	0.18%	<b>0</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>5</b>

3.7 The Licensing and Regulatory Committee does not require to be politically balanced and is therefore not included in the above calculations.

3.8 The political group has nominated Committee spokespersons and consultees and these are set out at Appendix Ai.

3.9 With regard to the politically balanced working groups, the allocation of seats is shown in the table below. The proposals for membership to these seats are set out within Appendix C.

<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Budget &amp; Strategic Planning (6)</b>	<b>Cattle Market (8)</b>	<b>Joint Staff (7)</b>	<b>Melton Local Plan (9)</b>	<b>Tenant Consultative (6)</b>
Conservative	5	7	6	8	5
Ind Cllr 1	1	1	0	0	0
Ind Cllr 2	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>

3.10 The appendices give the political group's proposed membership of Committees and Sub-Committees, the political group's nominations for Committee spokespersons and consultees, Chairs and Vice Chairs, Forums, Partnerships and Working Groups, appointments to Outside Organisations and Lead Members for 2015/16.

3.11 To enable Councillors to fully consider matters associated with the future of leisure provision for the Borough, it is proposed that a politically balanced Leisure Vision Working Group is introduced and constituted at this Annual Meeting comprising 9 Members and recommendation 2.11 refers. It is proposed that the Terms of Reference be considered at the first meeting of the Working Group and be referred to the next ordinary meeting of the Full Council for approval.

#### 4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Political proportionality plays an important role in all the Council's priorities especially in being 'A well run Council'.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial or resource implications in this report.

#### 6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 The legislation relating to political balance and associated interpretation is contained within this report as well as reference to the Constitution where required.

#### 7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no community safety implications in this report.

#### 8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 An Equalities Screening Assessment has been completed. It is noted that the Council's political arrangements are governed by legislation and this relates to there being political proportionality and fairness in accordance with the wishes of the electorate.

#### 9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 There are no risk implications in this report.

#### 10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no climate change implications in this report.

## 11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 There has been consultation with the political Group Leaders.

## 12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are affected by this report.

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Contact Officer: Senior Democracy Officer  
Date: May 2015

Appendices :  
Appendix A - Membership of Committees 2015/16  
Appendix Ai - Committee Spokespersons and Consultees 2015/16  
Appendix B - Committee Chairman & Vice Chairman 2015/16  
Appendix C - Membership of Forums, Partnerships & Working Groups 2015/16  
Appendix D - Representatives on Outside Organisations 2015/16  
Appendix E - Lead Members 2015/16  
Appendix F - Leisure Vision Working Group

Background Papers: Local Government & Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended)

X : Committees\Council Meetings\2015/16 Annual Meeting