

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 - POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL, APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIR OF COMMITTEES/PANELS AND NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF GROUP SECRETARY

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To report on the political balance of the council following a recent resignation from a political group;
- 1.2 To consider proposed appointments to chairs and a vice-chair of scrutiny panels;
- 1.3 To receive notification of a change to Group Secretary of a political group.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Chief Executive received notice of a resignation from a political group from a councillor on 24 October 2019 (Councillor M Kirk from the Labour Group) and a review of political balance has been undertaken
- 2.2 The composition of the council is to date as follows -

Conservative	27
Labour	15 (includes 1 vacancy, subject to by-election)
Independent	1
Total	43
- 2.3 The report also considers changes required following the death of Cllr J Collinson, whose seat remains a Labour vacancy (subject to by-election).
- 2.4 Any proposed changes to chairs and vice-chairs of committees/panels appointed by council should be considered and approved by council. Council should also be notified of changes to the leader, deputy leader and secretaries appointed by political groups.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

(i) Political Composition, balance and proportionality.

- 3.1 In accordance with the political proportionality rules and principles contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the current allocation of seats on the council's committees/panels agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2019 is not affected by the above change in composition applying the current ratio to the number of seats available to political groups and the Independent councillor on the current size of committees/panels. Subject to Council approval, all current arrangements can remain in place as agreed at the annual Meeting of the Council in May 2019.
- 3.2 To waiver the above political proportionality rules would require no member of the council voting against any such proposal.

(ii) Proposed appointments to chairmen and a vice-chair of scrutiny panels and notification of change to a Group Secretary of a political group.

- 3.3 Notification has been received from political groups of their proposed changes for appointment by council as follows –

	Chair (Conservative)	Vice-Chair (Labour)
Places Scrutiny Panel	Cllr J Evison	Cllr S Swift
Health Scrutiny Panel	Cllr T Mitchell	

- 3.4 Notification has also been received of the appointment by the Labour Group of Cllr S Swift as its Group Secretary.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Statutory political proportionality rules and principles have been applied and are not affected by the recent change to the council's political composition. The current arrangements to the allocation of seats on the council's committees/panels agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council May 2019 can therefore remain in place, subject to council approval.
- 4.2 Not applying statutory political proportionality rules and principles will require the council to propose alternative arrangements requiring no member of the council voting against any such approval.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 There are no specific resources implications arising from this report.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 There are no other specific resources implications arising from this report.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 Consultation has been held with political group offices and relevant members, following receipt of their notifications.

8.2 There are no conflicts of interest.

9. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 (a) That the current political composition of the council be noted, and by applying political proportionality rules and principals the current entitlement of the number of members to committees/panels as agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2019 continue and be approved;

(b) That the proposed appointments set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report be approved and implemented with immediate effect, and

(c) That the appointment by the Labour Group of Cllr S Swift as its Group Secretary be noted.

DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report – Local Government and Housing Act 1989