



Report To:	Council
Date:	8 th October 2025
Subject:	Committee Seats Review
Purpose:	To review committee seat allocations to political groups in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and confirm appointments to committees.
Key Decision:	N/A
Portfolio Holder:	N/A
Report Of:	John Medler, Assistant Director Governance & Monitoring Officer.
Report Author:	Ann Good, Democratic Services Manager.
Ward(s) Affected:	None.
Exempt Report:	No.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out a revised allocation of seats and associated appointments for committees following a review undertaken in response to a recent change in political group membership.

Recommendations

That the Council approves the revised allocation of seats to political groups as detailed in Appendix A and appointments to committees as detailed in Appendix B (documents to follow).

Reasons for Recommendations

To comply with legal requirements as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Other Options Considered

The Council may agree alternative seat allocation arrangements other than those prescribed by the 1989 Act and the 1990 Regulations. A decision in these circumstances would require no member to vote against the proposed alternative arrangements.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council last reviewed its committee seat allocations on 16 July 2025, in response to a recent change in political group membership, Council Minute no. 32 refers.
- 1.2 The Proper Officer received notice on 21 August 2025 that Councillor Carleen Dickinson had joined the Reform UK Group. Councillor Dickinson had, until that point, been a member of the East Lindsey Independent Group (ELIG). Further to this a request for a review of committee seats was received.
- 1.3 The Proper Officer received notification on 22 September 2025 that Councillor Stephen Evans (Conservative Group), had resigned as a District Councillor for Chapel St Leonards Ward. Appendices A and Appendix B (to follow) take account of this notification.

2. Report

- 2.1 Under Regulation 16 of the 1990 Regulations, where some of the members of the relevant authority are members of one or more political groups and the others are not, the Council's obligations are as follows:
 - i) To determine the proportion of the total membership of the Council who are members of one or more political groups and ensure that the same proportion of the total number of seats to be filled is allocated to each of the political groups in the proportion that the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the authority; and
 - ii) To secure that persons appointed to any seats that do not fall to be allocated to a political group under the above requirement are not allocated to a person who is a member of a political group.
- 2.2 Appendix A sets out the allocation of committee seats to political groups based on their proportion of the total membership of the authority. Under Schedule 1 of the 1989 Act membership means the number of persons who are members for the time being of the authority. The number of members at the time of this decision is therefore 54 and it is this number that has been used in the calculation.
- 2.3 Having determined the overall seat allocations, the next step is to allocate the seat allocations to individual committees. The 1989 Act requires the Council to apply the

following principles in sequential order and as far as reasonably practicable when determining seat allocations:

- a). That not all the seats on a body are allocated to the same political group.
- b). If the number of persons belonging to a political group is a majority of the authority's membership, the majority of seats on a body are allocated to that political group.
- c). That subject to (a) and (b) the number of seats allocated to a political group on the ordinary committees of the Council should bear the same proportion to all the seats on such ordinary committees as the membership of that group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole.
- d). That subject to (a), (b) and (c) the number of seats allocated to a political group on a body should bear the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as the membership of that group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole.

2.4 Applying the principles set out in paragraph 2.3 produces the allocation of committee seats set out in **Appendix A**.

2.5 Once the allocation of seats has been determined, there is a duty on the Council to give effect to the allocation by making appointments to seats in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group. The appointments to committee seats, as expressed by Group Leaders, are set out in **Appendix B**. Details of any further changes to appointments received from Group Leaders will be confirmed at the Council Meeting.

Conclusion

The Council is required to allocate seats on the committees of the Council to political groups in accordance with the law relating to political proportionality. The recommendations within this report meet these requirements.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None.

Corporate Priorities

None.

Staffing

None.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The Council is required to allocate seats on the Committees of the Council in accordance with the law relating to political proportionality as set out in the report.

Data Protection

None.

Financial

The costs of delivering the Council's Committee structures are factored into the approved Council budget.

Risk Management

None.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

Group Leaders have been consulted.

Reputation

None.

Contracts

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

None.

Health and Wellbeing

None.

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

Not undertaken.

Acronyms

None.

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and are to follow:

Appendix A	Allocation of seats to committees
Appendix B	Appointments to committees

Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title	Where the document can be viewed.
The Council Constitution	Council Constitution

Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

Report Approval

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