

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Rob Walker, Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer

To: Council – 8 December 2022

Author: Rory Ringer, Democratic Services Manager

Subject Political Group Regulations

Purpose: To confirm, in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Political Balance of the Council’s Committee’s.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That following a review of seat allocation, the Council agrees the political balance of Committees.

1.0 BACKGROUND

Legal Position

- 1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the Act”) provides that the default position for appointments to committees is on a politically proportionate basis. At each Annual Council Meeting the Council must consider whether any changes to committee membership are required in order to maintain political proportionality.
- 1.2 Section 15 of the Act and Regulation 17 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Group) Regulations 1990 together also require a review of seat allocation to different political groups as soon as is practicable after there is delivered to the proper officer a notice under Regulation 9(b) of the Regulations stating that a member wishes to join a political group.
- 1.3 Following recent changes to political group numbers, it is now appropriate to review the Council’s political balance on Committee seats.
- 1.4 Following the recent changes, the revised allocations based on the regulations are

Political Group	No of Members	% of Seats	Allocation	Allocated Seats
Conservative	37	75.5%	57.38	57
Labour	7	14.3%	10.87	11
Independent	3	6.1%	4.64	5
Green	2	4.1%	3.11	3
TOTALS	49	100	76	76

The total number of available seats (76) is made up as follows

Licensing Committee	15 Seats
Committee of the Licensing Authority	15 Seats
Planning	12 Seats
Overview & Scrutiny Commission	12 Seats
Governance & Audit	6 Seats
General Purposes	6 Seats
Appointments & Disciplinary Committee	3 Seats
Appointments & Disciplinary Appeals Committee	4 Seats
Shared Memorandum of Agreement Committee	3 Seats

1.5 The next step is to calculate the allocation of seats for each Committee and Sub-Committee.

The current position is :

	Conservative	Labour	Independent	Green
Licensing Committee	11	2	1	1
Committee of the Licensing Authority	11	2	1	1
Planning	9	1	2	0
Overview & Scrutiny Commission	9	1	1	1
Governance & Audit	5	1	0	0
General Purposes	5	1	0	0
Appointments & Disciplinary Committee	2	1	0	0
Appointments & Disciplinary Appeals Committee	3	1	0	0
Shared Memorandum of Agreement Committee	2	1	0	0
Total	57	11	5	3

1.6 It should be noted that the political balance of Planning Committee may look out of line, this is because the Green Party are entitled to a seat on either Planning or OSC, and currently have chosen to take a seat on the Overview & Scrutiny Commission.

1.7 Therefore, following the calculation there is no requirement to amend the current allocations.

2.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

2.1 Implementing any necessary changes would ensure compliance with the law and will allow the Council to continue to undertake its business.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Data Protection; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Transformation Programme; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

3.1 **Constitutional & Legal**

3.1.1 The operation of committees and sub-committees and the appointment of members to outside bodies are dealt with in the Constitution and in law (Local Government Act 1972, Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990).

3.2 **Stakeholders / Constitution / Timescales**

3.2.1 Appointments to committees and sub-committees, and outside bodies, reflect the wishes of the relevant political group/group leader.

Background papers:-	N/A
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Key Decision: N

Exempt Decision: N

This report refers to a Mandatory Service

Appendices attached to this report: