



Full Council	Tuesday, 28 October 2025	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title:

Review of Political Proportionality and Membership of Council Bodies (October 2025)

Report Author(s):

Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Monitoring Officer) (Solicitor)

Purpose of Report:	Following further debate and discussion at the meetings of Full Council on 23 September 2025 and the Constitutional Working Group (CWG) on 24 September 2025, the purpose of this report is to: review, revise and allocate seats on affected Council bodies in accordance with the statutory requirements on political balance as they apply to both constituted political groups and ungrouped Independent Members; and to adopt, as part of the Council's Constitution, the proposed Political Balance Procedure Rules, providing a clearer, more consistent, and transparent framework for future reviews of political proportionality and membership of Council bodies.
Report Summary:	The report outlines the review of political proportionality following changes in the Council's composition. It proposes adopting new Political Balance Procedure Rules to ensure a transparent and consistent framework for future reviews. The rules were developed after discussions at the Constitutional Working Group, which agreed on reserving seats for ungrouped Independent Members and making minor adjustments to Council Body sizes for equitable representation. The revised political composition allocates 55 seats to the Liberal Democrat Group, 17 to the Conservative Group, and 17 to ungrouped Independents across 11 politically balanced Council bodies. Changes include increasing some Council body sizes and reducing others by either +1/-1 so to achieve equitable and balanced representation.
Recommendation(s):	A. That the Political Balance Procedure Rules (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report) be noted and approved; B. That the new political composition of the Council, and revised proportionality arrangements in relation to the allocation of seats on Council bodies by political grouped Members and ungrouped Independent Members (as set out at section 2 of the report) be noted; and C. That the revised number of seats on each affected Council body, and the necessary removals and appointments of Members from/to those affected Council bodies for the remainder of the municipal year 2025/26 (as set out at sections 2 and 3 of this report) as may be proposed and seconded at the meeting be resolved.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Monitoring Officer) (Solicitor) (0116) 257 2643 samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Objectives:	Not applicable.

Vision and Values:	Not applicable.
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	Failure to adhere to the relevant provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as modified and amended accordingly) may result in the Council acting beyond its powers.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Political Dynamics (CR3) Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	• Local Government and Housing Act 1989 • Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 • 'Review of Political Proportionality and Membership of Council Bodies (September 2025)' to Full Council on 23 September 2025
Appendices:	1. Proposed Political Balance Procedure Rules (October 2025)

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 23 September 2025, Full Council considered a report and addendum concerning the Council's statutory duty to allocate seats on Council bodies following changes to its political composition, particularly in relation to ungrouped Independent Members. The full contents of that earlier report and addendum are not reproduced here, but is listed as a background paper(s) should Members wish to refer to them to provide further context.
- 1.2 At that meeting, Members resolved to defer determination of the matter until this meeting of Full Council, to allow for further discussion and consideration by the Constitutional Working Group ("the CWG") at its meeting on 24 September 2025. At the meeting of the CWG, further discussions took place, and a broad consensus was reached as follows:
- 1.2.1 To reserve a proportionate number of seats for ungrouped Independent Members, with allocations reconciled against the total number of seats across all politically balanced Council bodies once political group entitlements have been calculated;

- 1.2.2 When applying proportionality and undertaking any rounding exercises, the most equitable and practical approach is to make minor adjustments (+1/-1) to the overall size of Council bodies where necessary to achieve balanced representation; and
- 1.2.3 An officer-led process, facilitated by the Monitoring Officer, is to be used to manage an expression of interest exercise to determine the preferred Council body appointments of ungrouped Independent Members which is to be respected.

- 1.3 In light of these discussions, the CWG requested that a set of Political Balance Procedure Rules ("the Rules") be drafted to codify this approach and to provide a clearer, more consistent, and transparent framework for future reviews of political proportionality and the membership of Council bodies. The draft Rules were circulated to Members of the CWG, and, no comments having been received, are now attached at **Appendix 1** for approval.

2. Review of Proportionality Arrangements

- 2.1 On the basis that the Rules are approved by Members, the review, revision, and allocation of seats on Council bodies should proceed as set out in the remainder of this report.

2.2 Politically Balanced Council Bodies

- 2.2.1 The following Council bodies are politically balanced:

Council Body	Current Seats
Development Control Committee	14
Policy, Finance & Development Committee	14
Service Delivery Committee	14
Licensing & Regulatory Committee	10
Place Shaping & Climate Change Working Group*	8
Audit Committee	7
Capital Projects Sub-Committee	7
Constitutional Working Group*	7
Armed Forces Working Group*	4
Children & Young Peoples' Forum*	4
Total(s)	89

* Whilst the following are not formal committees, these Council bodies are (and have been ordinarily calculated in accordance with political balance calculations.

- 2.2.2 The total number of seats across all politically balanced Council bodies is currently 89.

2.3 Political Balance of the Council

- 2.3.3 To calculate the number of seats each political group is entitled to:

- The number of Members in each group is divided by the total number of Members (26);
- This number is multiplied by 100 giving membership of each group as a percentage (%);
- The total number of seats available across all Council bodies is multiplied by this %; and
- This number(s) is then rounded to the nearest whole number to give the seat numbers.

2.3.4 The revised composition of the Council, and the proportion of seats allocated by political group, is shown in the following table:

Members (26)	No.	%	Proportion of Seats Available	Rounded To
Liberal Democrat Group (LD)	16	61.54%	54.77	55
Conservative Group (CON)	5	19.23%	17.12	17
Ungrouped Independents (UI)	5	19.23%	17.12	17
Total(s)	26	100%	89.01	89

- 2.4 The political proportionality rules that apply in allocating seats on politically balanced Council bodies, set out in section 15 and 16 of the 1989 Act, apply only to political groups (i.e. 55 to the Liberal Democrat Group and 17 to the Conservative Group).
- 2.5 Once seats have been allocated to the political groups, the Council is then under a duty to allocate the remaining seats (17) to Members who are independent of political grouping. In effect, this does proportionately reserve seats to ungrouped Members in the same way.
- 2.6 **Allocation of Seats and Sizes of Council Bodies**
- 2.7 Using current 89 as the total number of seats across all politically balanced Council bodies, the following table shows the total number of seats each political group and ungrouped independents is entitled to for each, using the calculated proportions above.
- 2.8 To calculate the number of seats grouped and ungrouped Members are entitled to:
- (i) The number of seats on each body is multiplied the % across all available bodies; and
 - (ii) This number(s) is then rounded to the nearest whole number to give the seat numbers;
- 2.9 As a result of rounding, this will require an increase or decrease in the size of the body.

Development Control Committee (14)		Proportion	Rounded To
LD	$16 \div 26 (61.54\%) \times 14 =$	8.62	9
CON	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 14 =$	2.69	3
UI	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 14 =$	2.69	3
Figures rounded require an INCREASE ↑ in size to			15

Policy, Finance & Development Committee (14)		Proportion	Rounded To
LD	$16 \div 26 (61.54\%) \times 14 =$	8.62	9
CON	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 14 =$	2.69	3
UI	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 14 =$	2.69	3
Figures rounded require an INCREASE ↑ in size to			15

Service Delivery Committee (14)		Proportion	Rounded To
LD	$16 \div 26 (61.54\%) \times 14 =$	8.62	9
CON	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 14 =$	2.69	3

UI	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 14 =$	2.69	3
Figures rounded require an INCREASE ↑ in size to			15

Licensing & Regulatory Committee (10)		Proportion	Rounded To
LD	$16 \div 26 (61.54\%) \times 10 =$	6.15	6
CON	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 10 =$	1.92	2
UI	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 10 =$	1.92	2
Figures rounded require NO CHANGE – in size			10

Place Shaping & Climate Change Working Group (8)		Proportion	Rounded To
LD	$16 \div 26 (61.54\%) \times 8 =$	4.92	5
CON	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 8 =$	1.54	2
UI	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 8 =$	1.54	2
Figures rounded require an INCREASE ↑ in size to			9

Audit Committee (7)		Proportion	Rounded To
LD	$16 \div 26 (61.54\%) \times 7 =$	4.31	4
CON	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 7 =$	1.35	1
UI	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 7 =$	1.35	1
Figures rounded require a DECREASE ↓ in size to			6

Capital Projects Sub-Committee (7)		Proportion	Rounded To
LD	$16 \div 26 (61.54\%) \times 7 =$	4.31	4
CON	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 7 =$	1.35	1
UI	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 7 =$	1.35	1
Figures rounded require a DECREASE ↓ in size to			6

Constitutional Working Group (7)		Proportion	Rounded To
LD	$16 \div 26 (61.54\%) \times 7 =$	4.31	4
CON	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 7 =$	1.35	1
UI	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 7 =$	1.35	1
Figures rounded require a DECREASE ↓ in size to			6

Armed Forces Working Group (4)		Proportion	Rounded To
LD	$16 \div 26 (61.54\%) \times 4 =$	2.46	2
CON	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 4 =$	0.77	1
UI	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 4 =$	0.77	1

Figures rounded require NO CHANGE – in size	4
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Children & Young Peoples' Forum (4)		Proportion	Rounded To
LD	$16 \div 26 (61.54\%) \times 4 =$	2.46	2
CON	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 4 =$	0.77	1
UI	$5 \div 26 (19.23\%) \times 4 =$	0.77	1
Figures rounded require NO CHANGE – in size			4

2.10 With each political group and ungrouped Independents being allocated seats with its proportional entitlement rounded accordingly, the changes are shown in the following table:

Council Body	Seats	LD	CON	UI
Development Control Committee	15 ⁽⁺¹⁾	9 ⁽⁻¹⁾	3 ⁽⁻¹⁾	3 ⁽⁺³⁾
Policy, Finance & Development Committee	15 ⁽⁺¹⁾	9 ⁽⁻¹⁾	3 ⁽⁻¹⁾	3 ⁽⁺³⁾
Service Delivery Committee	15 ⁽⁺¹⁾	9 ⁽⁻¹⁾	3 ⁽⁻¹⁾	3 ⁽⁺³⁾
Licensing & Regulatory Committee	10 ⁽⁰⁾	6 ⁽⁻¹⁾	2 ⁽⁻¹⁾	2 ⁽⁺²⁾
Place Shaping & Climate Change Working Group	9 ⁽⁺¹⁾	5 ⁽⁻¹⁾	2 ⁽⁰⁾	2 ⁽⁺²⁾
Audit Committee	6 ⁽⁻¹⁾	4 ⁽⁻¹⁾	1 ⁽⁻¹⁾	1 ⁽⁺¹⁾
Capital Projects Sub-Committee	6 ⁽⁻¹⁾	4 ⁽⁻¹⁾	1 ⁽⁻¹⁾	1 ⁽⁺¹⁾
Constitutional Working Group	6 ⁽⁻¹⁾	4 ⁽⁻¹⁾	1 ⁽⁻¹⁾	1 ⁽⁺¹⁾
Armed Forces Working Group	4 ⁽⁰⁾	2 ⁽⁻¹⁾	1 ⁽⁰⁾	1 ⁽⁺¹⁾
Children & Young Peoples' Forum	4 ⁽⁰⁾	2 ⁽⁻¹⁾	1 ⁽⁰⁾	1 ⁽⁺¹⁾
Total(s)	90	54	18	18

3. Revised Removal and Appointments of Members to Council Bodies

3.1 The revised political balance of the Council affects the following Council Bodies:

3.1.1 The Liberal Democrat Group **LOOSE** one (1) seat on:

- Development Control Committee
- Policy, Finance & Development Committee
- Service Delivery Committee
- Licensing & Regulatory Committee
- Place Shaping & Climate Change Working Group
- Audit Committee
- Capital Projects Sub-Committee
- Constitutional Working Group
- Armed Forces Working Group
- Children & Young Peoples' Forum

3.1.2 The Conservative Group **LOOSE** one (1) seat on:

- Development Control Committee
- Policy, Finance & Development Committee

- Service Delivery Committee
- Licensing & Regulatory Committee
- Audit Committee
- Capital Projects Sub-Committee
- Constitutional Working Group

3.1.3 The is one (1) **VACANCY** for the Conservative Group on:

- Development Control Committee
- Place Shaping & Climate Change Working Group

3.1.4 The Ungrouped Independents **GAIN**:

(i) three (3) seats on:

- Development Control Committee
- Policy, Finance & Development Committee
- Service Delivery Committee

(ii) two (2) seats on:

- Licensing & Regulatory Committee
- Place Shaping & Climate Change Working Group

(iii) one (1) seat on:

- Audit Committee
- Capital Projects Sub-Committee
- Constitutional Working Group
- Armed Forces Working Group
- Children & Young Peoples' Forum

3.2 The necessary removals and appointments of Members from/to those affected Council bodies at set out at sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4 of the report for the remainder of the municipal year 2025/26 may be proposed, seconded and resolved before or at the meeting itself and in accordance with the proposed Political Balance Procedure Rules as may be approved.