



Full Council (Extraordinary)	Wednesday, 10 January 2024	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Review of Membership of Council Bodies etc.
(January 2024)**

Report Author(s): **Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services
Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	Following a recent change to the political balance of the Council, it is obliged to review Member representation and appointments on a two affected Council Bodies which it appoints to ensure that these reflect the make-up of the political groups on the Council as a whole.
Report Summary:	On 11 December 2023, Councillor Michael Charlesworth resigned from the Liberal Democrats to sit as an Independent. This triggered a review of the Council's proportionality arrangements in relation to the eligible Member representation and allocation of seats on Council Bodies. Removals and appointments to those affected Council Bodies must be made to reflect the Council's new political composition.
Recommendation(s):	<p>A. That the new political composition of the Council, and the proportionality arrangements in relation to minimum eligible Member representation and allocation of seats on Council bodies by political group (as set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to this report) be noted;</p> <p>B. That the necessary removals and appointments of Members from/to those affected Council bodies for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24 (as set out at sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2. of this report) as may be proposed and seconded at the meeting be resolved; and</p> <p>C. That an appointment to serve as the Chair of the Policy, Finance & Development Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24 (as set out at section 4 of this report) as may be proposed and seconded at the meeting be resolved.</p>
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	David Gill (Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2643 samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Objectives:	Not applicable.
Vision and Values:	Not applicable.
Report Implications:-	

Legal:	Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review the representation of different political groups on bodies to which the Council makes appointments as soon as practicable after changes in membership of political groups occur. Failure to adhere to the relevant provisions of Local Government Act 1972, Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Local Government Act 2000, the Regulations made thereunder, and provisions of the Council's Constitution 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:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	1. Minimum Eligible Representation of Members by Political Group 2. Minimum Allocation of Seats to Political Groups (December 2023)

1. Political Composition of the Council

- 1.1 On 12 December 2023, the Monitoring Officer was informed by Councillor Michael Charlesworth that, with effect as of 11 December 2023, he resigned from the Liberal Democrats to sit as an Independent Member without any political affiliation or grouping.
- 1.2 As a result, the political composition of the Council changed from 19 Liberal Democrats and 7 Conservatives to 18 Liberal Democrats, 7 Conservatives and 1 Independent.

2. Review of Proportionality Arrangements

- 2.1 Consequently, a review of the Council's proportionality arrangements in relation to minimum eligible Member representation and allocation of seats on Council Bodies, was triggered, resulting in the Liberal Democrat political group now being entitled to 69% of seats of Council Bodies and the Conservative political group remaining entitled to 27%.
- 2.2 For the purposes of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, a political group must be constituted of two or more Members of the Council. As Councillor Charlesworth cannot, by himself, constitute a political group, the remaining 4%

of notional entitlement of seats on Council Bodies is to be disregarded accordingly.

- 2.3 A full break down of the revised political balance of the Council, and its proportionality arrangements in terms of minimum eligible Member representation and allocation of seats on Council bodies, is reflected in the figurework set out at **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**.

3. Removal and Appointment 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 political group **LOSE** one (1) seat on:

- Service Delivery Committee

3.1.2 There is one (1) **VACANCY** for the Liberal Democrat political group on:

- Policy, Finance & Development Committee

- 3.2 The necessary removals and appointments of Members from/to those affected Council bodies at set out at sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 of the report for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24 may be proposed, seconded and resolved at the meeting itself.

4. Appointment of Chair to the Policy, Finance & Development Committee

- 4.1 At the Annual General Meeting of the Full Council on 18 May 2023, Councillor Micheal Charlesworth was appointed the Chair of the Policy, Finance & Development Committee whilst, at the time, forming part Liberal Democrat political group.

- 4.2 In light of the circumstances at section 1 of the report, Council must appoint a Chair of the Policy, Finance & Development Committee. The appointment for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24 may be proposed, seconded and resolved at the meeting itself.