



Full Council

**Tuesday, 23
September 2025**

**Matter for
Information and
Decision**

Report Title:

**Review of Political Proportionality and
Membership of Council Bodies (September 2025)**

Report Author(s):

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

Purpose of Report:	Following a recent change to the political balance of the Council, it is obliged to review Member representation and appointments on 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 8 September 2025, Councillors Pritibala (Priti) Joshi and Nidhi (Rupa) V Joshi resigned from the Conservative political group to sit as ungrouped Independents. 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 by political groupings.
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; and</p> <p>B. That 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 4.1.1 to 4.1.3. 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):	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:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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:	None.
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimum Eligible Representation of Members by Political Group 2. Minimum Allocation of Seats to Political Groups (September 2025)

1. Political Composition of the Council

- 1.1 On 8 September 2025, the Monitoring Officer was informed by Councillors Pritibala (Priti) Joshi and Nidhi (Rupa) Joshi that with immediate affect they had resigned from the Conservative political group to sit as an Independent Members without any political grouping.
- 1.2 As a result, the political composition of the Council changed from 7 Conservatives to 5 Conservatives and 3 ungrouped Independents to 5 ungrouped Independents. The number of Liberal Democrats remains the same at 16.

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 76% of seats of Council Bodies and the Conservative political group remaining entitled to 24%.
- 2.2 For the purposes of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act") and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ("the Regulations"), a political group must be constituted of two or more Members of the Council who inform the Proper Officer (the Monitoring Officer) they wish to be regarded as a political group.
- 2.3 At the time of publication, no ungrouped Independents have informed the Proper Officer that they wish to be regarded as a political group(s), therefore, at the current time, those ungrouped Independents have no automatic right to any seats on Council Bodies.

- 2.4 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. Ungrouped Independent Members

- 3.1 On 15 July 2025, a Motion on Notice was submitted by Councillor Charlesworth to a meeting of the Full Council proposing to adopt a less rigid interpretation and application of the Act and Regulations regarding ungrouped Independent Members and to so amend the Council's Constitution to reserve a proportion of seats on Council Bodies equal (or aggregate) to the proportion of Members who do not belong to a political group, with the appointment to these seats being made by the Council at its discretion ("the Motion").
- 3.2 The Motion was defeated and, in the alternative, a resolution passed for the Motion to be given further consideration at the next meeting of the Constitutional Working Group ("the CWG") currently rescheduled for 24 September 2025. Should the CWG be minded to recommend to Full Council any changes to the Constitution which affects the allocation of seats to ungrouped Independent Members, these recommendations and any subsequent allocations can be considered at the next or an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council.

4. Removal and Appointment of Members to Council Bodies

- 4.1 The revised political balance of the Council affects the following Council Bodies:

4.1.1. The Liberal Democrat political group **GAIN** one (1) seat on:

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

4.1.2 The Conservative political group **LOSE** one (1) seat on:

- Service Delivery Committee
- Policy, Finance & Development Committee (one seat currently held by Councillor Priti Joshi)
- Development Control Committee (two seats currently held by Councillors Priti Joshi and Rupa Joshi)
- Licensing & Regulatory Committee (one seat currently held by Councillor Priti Joshi)

4.1.3 There is one (1) **VACANCY** for the Conservative political group on:

- Development Control Committee
- Place Shaping & Climate Change Working Group (one seat currently held by Councillor Rupa Joshi)
- Capital Projects Sub-Committee (one seat currently held by Councillor Priti Joshi)

- 4.2 The necessary removals and appointments of Members from/to those affected Council bodies at set out at sections 4.1.1 to 4.1.3 of the report for the remainder of the municipal year 2025/26 may be proposed, seconded and resolved at the meeting itself.