

REPORT TO COUNCIL

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| Open | | | | |
| Lead Officer: Sam Winter E-mail: sam.winter@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616327 | | | Other Officers consulted: Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer | |
| Financial Implications NO | Policy/Personnel Implications NO | Statutory Implications YES | Equality Impact Assessment req'd NO | Risk Management Implications NO |

Date of Meeting : 17 November 2016

REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

It is the duty of the Council to review annually the entitlement of political groups to seats on committees in line with the proportionality rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The rules allow adjustments to be made to make whole numbers of seats and, once the Council has determined how adjustments should be made, appointments are made to committees on that basis. Council is now required to review its proportionality following the election in the Heacham Ward of an Independent Councillor, T Parish.

RECOMMENDED: That proportionality be amended by the change of 2 seats, one from both the Licensing & Appeals Board and Licensing Committee moving from Conservative to Independent and the appropriate membership sought.

1 Background

The rules around proportionality are as set out below:

- (1) No political group can have all the places on a committee (the exception is the Cabinet).
- (2) A group having an overall majority on the Council is entitled to a majority of seats on each committee.
- (3) The aggregate number of seats across all committees is allocated in accordance with each group's entitlement.
- (4) The number of seats on each committee is allocated in accordance with each group's entitlement.

2 Proportionality Change

Following the results of the Heacham By Election on 20 October 2016, an Independent Member, Councillor T Parish was elected, and he has chosen to join the Independent Group taking that Group membership to 3.

The overall numbers per Groups are now 50 Conservative, 9 Labour and 3 Independent.

3 Amended level of Seats Allocated

To take into account the amended proportionality, Council is invited to approve the change which means the loss of 2 seats from the Conservative Group which will be allocated to the Independent Group - 1 each from both the Licensing Committee and Licensing & Appeals Board.