

REPORT TO COUNCIL

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 : 9 September 2021

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. As there has been a change in Group membership following the Group membership change from Labour to Independent Member by Councillor Gary Howman, it is being presented for review.

RECOMMENDED: That proportionality be amended by the change of seats as follows:

That Labour lose 2 seats – 1 from the Licensing and Appeals Committee and 1 from the Appointments Board.

Those 2 seats to dealt with as follows:

- **Conservative Group to have the additional seat on the Licensing and Appeals Board**
- **Independent Group to have the additional seat on the Appointments Board.**

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 a change in Group membership across the Council it has required the proportionality to be reviewed.

The change is that following the move from the Labour Group to an Independent Member by Councillor Gary Howman. This means that the group numbers are currently 29 Conservative, 16 Independent, 8 Labour. The 2 Independent Members are not in a group and are not taken into account in the proportionality calculations, but any Group may offer seat/s to those independents should they wish.

3 Amended level of Seats Allocated

To take into account the amended proportionality, Council is invited to approve the change.