

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

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	Environmental Implications No

Date of Meeting : 31 January 2024

### 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. When changes are made to Group memberships a further review can be undertaken on request.

As a result of Councillors Kemp and Rose leaving the Independent Partnership to form the Progressive Group the following updates to proportionality as per the attached table are suggested to Council.

**RECOMMENDED: That proportionality be amended in accordance with the attached table.**

#### 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 with Councillors Kemp and Rose forming the Progressive Group, it has been requested that proportionality be reviewed.

This means that the group numbers are currently 21 Independent Partnership, 21 Conservative and 11 Labour, 2 Progressive Group.

As the Independent Partnership and the Conservative Groups have identical numbers of members and not sufficient seats to permit them the same number, for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year the Independent Partnership will have a total of 42 seats, with Conservative 41 seats. This will revert for 2024/25, subject to the Group numbers remaining the same.

## **3 Amended level of Seats Allocated**

To take into account the amended proportionality, Council is invited to approve the amended proportionality as set out in the attached table.

It should be noted that any seats previously gifted to other Groups or individuals will no longer be valid unless re-confirmed as such.