

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

| Open  |                                     |  |  |                                    |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Lead Member Councillor Alistair Beales<br>Email: <a href="mailto:cllr.alistair.beales@west-norfolk.gov.uk">cllr.alistair.beales@west-norfolk.gov.uk</a> |                                     |  |  |                                    |
| Lead Officer: Rebecca Parker<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:rebecca.parker@west-norfolk.gov.uk">rebecca.parker@west-norfolk.gov.uk</a>                      |                                     | Other Officers consulted: Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer |  |                                    |
| Financial Implications<br>NO  | Policy/Personnel Implications<br>NO | Statutory Implications<br>YES                                    | Equality Impact Assessment req'd<br>NO | Risk Management Implications<br>NO |

Date of Meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

It is the duty of the Council to review the entitlement of political groups to seats on committees in line with the proportionality rules set out in the Rule C of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. When changes are made to Group Memberships a further review can be undertaken on request in accordance with the section 17(b) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Following the By Election on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025, resulting in the Independent Partnership losing one seat to the Reform Group gaining, political proportionality has been recalculated as set out in the report.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the proportional allocation of seats be amended in accordance with the table set out within the report.

### 1 Background

1.1 The rules relating to proportionality as per Section C of the Local Government Housing Act 1989 are set out below:

- a) No political group can have all the places on a Committee (the exception is the Cabinet).
- b) The Group that has the overall majority on the Council is entitled to the majority of seats on each Committee.
- c) The aggregate number of seats across all Committees is allocated in accordance with each group's entitled.
- d) The number of seats on each Committee is allocated in accordance with each group's entitlement.

## **2 Changes to Proportionality**

2.1 Following the By-Election on 27th November 2025, proportionality is required to be reviewed.

2.2 Current Political make up of the Council is as follows:

20 – Independent Partnership  
19 – Conservative  
7 – Labour  
5 – Reform UK  
2 – Progressive Group  
2 – Non- aligned

2.3 To take into account the amended proportionality, Council is invited to approve the amended proportionality as set out in Appendix 1.

Revised proportionality will result in the following changes to Committee Membership:

### Environment & Community Panel

Independent Partnership lose one seat.

Reform UK gain one seat.

### Appointments Board

Independent Partnership lose one seat.

Conservatives to gain this seat.

**APPENDIX 1:**

**POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY TO BE AGREED BY FULL COUNCIL -**  
**29<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

|                                  | <b>Total Membership</b>      | <b>Conservative</b> | <b>Independent Partnership</b> | <b>Labour</b> | <b>Progressive</b> | <b>Reform</b> | <b>Check Total</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Total No. of Members             | <b>53 plus 2 non-aligned</b> | <b>19</b>           | <b>20</b>                      | <b>7</b>      | <b>2</b>           | <b>5</b>      | <b>55</b>          |
| Appointments Board               | 9                            | 4                   | 3                              | 1             | 0                  | 1             | 9                  |
| Planning Committee               | 15                           | 5                   | 6                              | 2             | 1                  | 1             | 15                 |
| Licensing Committee              | 13                           | 5                   | 5                              | 1             | 1                  | 1             | 13                 |
| Licensing & Appeals Board        | 13                           | 5                   | 5                              | 1             | 1                  | 1             | 13                 |
| Standards Committee              | 7                            | 2                   | 3                              | 1             | 0                  | 1             | 7                  |
| Corporate Performance Panel      | 12                           | 4                   | 5                              | 2             | 0                  | 1             | 12                 |
| Environment & Community Panel    | 12                           | 4                   | 4                              | 2             | 1                  | 1             | 12                 |
| Regeneration & Development Panel | 12                           | 4                   | 5                              | 2             | 0                  | 1             | 12                 |
| Audit Committee                  | 9                            | 4                   | 3                              | 1             | 0                  | 1             | 9                  |
| <b>Total Seats</b>               | <b>102</b>                   | <b>37</b>           | <b>39</b>                      | <b>13</b>     | <b>4</b>           | <b>9</b>      | <b>102</b>         |