

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Open				
Lead Officer: Emma Hodds, Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer E-mail: emma.hodds@west-norfolk.gov.uk			Members consulted: Leader of the Council Group Leaders	
Financial Implications NO	Policy/Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications YES	Equality Impact Assessment req'd NO	Risk Management Implications NO

Date of Meeting : 25th September 2026

REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

It is the duty of the Council to annually review 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. When changes are made to Group Memberships a further review can be undertaken in request.

As a result of two Reform UK Councillors being elected at the by-election in August 2026 and other changes in Political Group Membership, proportionality is updated as per the attached table for Council to consider.

RECOMMENDED: 1. That the proportional allocation of seats be amended in accordance with the table set out within the report.

2. That the make up of Task Groups be amended in accordance with section 3 of the report and Democratic Services liaise with Group Leaders regarding revised appointments to Task Groups as required.

1 Background

1.1 The rules relating to proportionality 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 entitlement.
- 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 two Borough by-elections in August 2026, resulting in two Reform UK Councillors filling two vacancies, Councillor Ryves joining the West Norfolk Independent Group and Councillor Lowe leaving the Labour Group, proportionality has been reviewed.

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

- 20 – Independent Partnership
- 17 – Conservative
- 5 – Labour
- 7 – Reform UK
- 3 – West Norfolk Independent Group
- 2 – Progressive Group
- 1 – Non-aligned.

- 2.3 To consider the amended proportionality, Council is invited to approve the amended proportionality as set in the table below.

This will result in the following changes to Committee Membership which was previously agreed at Annual Council in May 2026.

Licensing Committee

Conservatives lose one seat and Reform gain one seat.

Licensing and Appeals Board

Conservatives and Independent Partnership each lose a seat and Reform and West Norfolk Independent Group each gain a seat.

Planning Committee

Progressive Group lose one seat and Reform gain one seat.

Regeneration and Development Panel

Labour and Independent Partnership each lose a seat and Reform and West Norfolk Independent Group each gain a seat.

Environment and Community Panel

Conservatives lose one seat and Reform gain one seat.

Corporate Performance Panel

Independent Partnership lose one seat and Progressive Group gain one seat.

Appointments Board

Reform lose one seat and Independent Partnership gain one seat

Audit Committee

Labour loses one seat and Reform gain one seat.

- 2.4 Council are requested to agree the proportionality set out below.

	Total Membership	Independent Partnership	Conservative	Labour	Reform UK	Progressive Group	West Norfolk Independent Group
Total number of Members	55	20	17	5	7	2	3
Standards Committee	7	3	2	1	1	0	0
Licensing Committee	13	5	4	1	2	0	1

Licensing and Appeals Board	13	4	4	2	1	1	1
Planning Committee	13	5	4	1	2	0	1
Regeneration and Development Panel	12	4	4	1	2	0	1
Environment and Community Panel	12	4	4	1	2	1	0
Corporate Performance Panel	12	4	4	1	1	1	1
Appointments Board	9	4	3	1	1	0	0
Audit Committee	5	2	2	0	1	0	0
Electoral Arrangements Committee	11	4	3	1	1	1	1
Total number of seats	107	39	34	10	14	4	6

2.5 Group Leaders have been consulted on the proposals and have submitted their nominations for seats. A revised copy of the Committee Membership is appended to this report.

3 Proportionality of Task Groups

3.1 Council is requested to approve the proportionality of Task Groups as set out below:

As agreed at Annual Council – May 2026	Revised – to be agreed
11 Member Task Group 4 Independent Partnership 3 Conservative 1 Labour 1 Reform 1 Progressive Group 1 West Norfolk Independent Group	11 Member Task Group – No change 4 Independent Partnership 3 Conservative 1 Labour 1 Reform 1 Progressive Group 1 West Norfolk Independent Group

9 Member Task Group 3 Independent Partnership 3 Conservative 1 Labour 1 Reform <i>1 Progressive Group <u>or</u> West Norfolk Independent Group</i>	9 Member Task Group 4 Independent Partnership 3 Conservative 1 Labour 1 Reform
7 Member Task Group 3 Independent Partnership 2 Conservative 1 Labour 1 Reform	7 Member Task Group – No change 3 Independent Partnership 2 Conservative 1 Labour 1 Reform
5 Member Task Group 2 Independent Partnership 2 Conservative 1 Labour	5 Member Task Group 2 Independent Partnership 2 Conservative 1 Reform