

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 become non aligned members the following changes to proportionality are suggested to Council.

The Independent Partnership lose 2 seats, 1 to the Conservatives and 1 to Labour.

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

- 1) That the Independent Partnership lose 1 seat from the Environment and Community Panel to the Conservative Group.**
- 2) The Independent Partnership lose 1 seat from the Regeneration and Development Panel to the Labour Group**

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 leaving the Independent Partnership, it has been requested that proportionality be reviewed.

This means that the group numbers are currently 21 Independent Partnership, 21 Conservative and 11 Labour. There are 2 non aligned Members who are not taken into account in the proportionality calculations, but any Group may offer seat/s to those Councillors should they wish.

3 Amended level of Seats Allocated

To take into account the amended proportionality, Council is invited to approve the changes as follows:

That the Independent Partnership lose 1 seat from the Environment and Community Panel to the Conservative Group.

The Independent Partnership lose 1 seat from the Regeneration and Development Panel to the Labour Group