

TO: **ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

(Copy to recipients of Council Papers)

Our reference CS

Your reference N/A

Contact Claire Skoyles

Direct Dial 01284 757176

Email claire.skoyles@westsuffolk.gov.uk

17 December 2019

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL - TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2019

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at this evening's meeting of Council, the following report that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item
8.	<u>Review of the Political Balance and Appointment to Politically Balanced Bodies (Pages 1 - 8)</u>

Report No: **COU/WS/19/015**

Yours sincerely

Claire Skoyles
Democratic Services Officer (Cabinet)
HR, Legal and Democratic Services

Jennifer Eves • Assistant Director (Human Resources, Legal and Democratic Services)
Tel 01284 757015 • **Fax** 01284 757110
Email democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



Review of Political Balance and Appointment to Politically Balanced Bodies

Report No:	COU/WS/19/015	
Report to and date/s:	Council	17 December 2019
Cabinet Member:	Councillor John Griffiths Leader of the Council Tel: 01284 757001 Email: john.griffiths@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Leah Mickleborough Service Manager, Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer Tel: 01284 757162 Email: leah.mickleborough@westsuffolk.gov.uk	

Decisions Plan: n/a

Wards impacted: All

Recommendations: It is RECOMMENDED that:

- (1) the Council agrees the political balance and allocation of seats on committees as set out in Appendix A of Report No: COU/WS/19/015;**
- (2) the Council agrees the political balance and allocation of substitutes on Committees as per Appendix B of Report No: COU/WS/19/015; and**
- (3) the Council notes that based on the agreed allocations, Group Leaders have up to 14 days in which to notify the Monitoring Officer of their nominations to committee places, on which the Monitoring Officer will appoint Members to Committees.**

1. Background / Context

- 1.1 The Council agenda for 17 December 2019 includes an item for the appointment of Councillors to committees on a politically balanced basis.
- 1.2 Since the last Council meeting, the Monitoring Officer has received notification that Councillors Frank Warby and David Nettleton have joined the Conservative Group. The Monitoring Officer has also received notification that the remaining Members of the Spectrum Group have joined the Independent Group. This means that the Spectrum Group ceases to exist and therefore a review of the allocation of seats on committees is required.
- 1.3 In addition, the Council has a vacant seat as a result of the resignation of Councillor Robin Millar following the recent general election.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 In order to calculate the allocation of seats, the Council has to follow specific rules. This requires that the majority group have a majority on all Committees; and then consideration is given to the political balance on each Committee, and the political balance overall.
- 2.2 This rarely gives a "perfect" solution and so some compromise is required. With this in mind, the proposal, as attached at Appendix A, is that:
 - A seat on the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, previously held by the Spectrum Group, is allocated to the Conservative Group;
 - All other seats previously held by the Spectrum Group are allocated to the Independent Group.

3. Consultation and engagement

- 3.1 The proposals within this report have been subject to consultation with leaders of the political groups.

4. Appendices

- 4.1 Appendix A: Allocation of seats on politically balanced committees
Appendix B: Allocation of substitutes on politically balanced committees

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee				Development Control Committee			Licensing & Regulatory Committee			Overview & Scrutiny Committee			Performance & Audit Scrutiny Committee			Officer Appeals			Officer Appointments			Standards			OVERALL		
No of seats				16			15			16			12			6			6			7			78		
				Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places
West Suffolk Conservative Group	John Griffiths	37	57.81%	9.25	9	9	8.67	9	9	9.25	9	9	6.94	7	7	3.47	4	4	3.47	4	4	4.05	4	4	45.09	45	46
Independent Group	Ian Shipp	21	32.81%	5.25	5	6	4.92	5	5	5.25	5	6	3.94	4	4	1.97	2	1	1.97	2	2	2.30	2	2	25.59	26	26
Labour	Diane Hind	5	7.81%	1.25	1	1	1.17	1	1	1.25	1	1	0.94	1	1	0.47	0	1	0.47	0	0	0.55	1	1	6.09	6	6
VACANCY		1	1.56%	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
TOTAL		64	100.00%	15.8	15	16	14.8	15	15	15.8	15	16	11.8	12	12	5.91	6	6	5.91	6	6	6.89	7	7	76.8	77	78

- Page 5
- a) Not all seats on a committee can be given to a single political group

b) The majority group must be allocated the majority of seats on a committee

c) Subject to a) and b), the proportion of seats on ordinary committees allocated to a group must be proportionate to the total number of seats held by that group

d) Subject to a) b) and c), the proportion of seats on all committees allocated to a group must be proportionate to the total number of seats held by that group

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee				Development Control Committee			Licensing & Regulatory Committee			Overview & Scrutiny Committee			Performance & Audit Scrutiny Committee			Officer Appeals			Officer Appointments			Standards			OVERALL		
No of seats				8			7			8			6			3			3			3			38		
				Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places	Entitled Places (exact)	Entitled Places (rounded)	Allocated Places
West Suffolk Conservative Group	John Griffiths	37	57.81%	4.63	5	5	4.05	4	4	4.63	5	5	3.47	4	3	1.73	2	1	1.73	2	1	1.73	2	2	21.97	23	21
Independent Group	Ian Shipp	21	32.81%	2.63	3	2	2.30	2	2	2.63	3	2	1.97	2	2	0.98	1	0	0.98	1	1	0.98	1	1	12.47	12	10
Labour	Diane Hind	5	7.81%	0.63	1	1	0.55	1	1	0.63	1	1	0.47	0	1	0.23	0	1	0.23	0	0	0.23	0	0	2.97	3	5
VACANCY		1	1.56%	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
TOTAL		64	100.00%	7.88	9	8	6.89	7	7	7.88	9	8	5.91	6	6	2.95	3	2	2.95	3	2	2.95	3	3	37.4	38	36

- Page 7
- a) Not all seats on a committee can be given to a single political group

b) The majority group must be allocated the majority of seats on a committee

c) Subject to a) and b), the proportion of seats on ordinary committees allocated to a group must be proportionate to the total number of seats held by that group

d) Subject to a) b) and c), the proportion of seats on all committees allocated to a group must be proportionate to the total number of seats held by that group

This page is intentionally left blank