

## **Review of Political Balance and Appointment to Politically Balanced Bodies**

<b>Report No:</b>	<b>COU/WS/19/015</b>	
<b>Report to and date/s:</b>	<b>Council</b>	17 December 2019
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor John Griffiths Leader of the Council <b>Tel:</b> 01284 757001 <b>Email:</b> john.griffiths@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
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**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

