

## JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND MONITORING OFFICER

### A. POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS

#### Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Council's political balance following the results of the by election held on 16 April and seek agreement to the allocation of seats on those committees subject to political balance arrangements.

#### Background

2. Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the County Council, at its Annual meeting, to review the allocation of seats on its committees between political groups and to apply the political balance rules which are set out in paragraph 5 below. Political balance rules have been disapplied for Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board as these are not categorised as '*ordinary committees*' applying the relevant legislation, so these are not included.
3. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 specifies that political groups comprise 2 or more members. However, the County Council's convention is that all members are allocated seats on a proportional basis. This approach exceeds the minimum statutory requirement but is permitted by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 by local agreement.

#### Composition of the County Council

4. Following the by election on 16 April 2026, the composition of the County Council is as follows:

Political Group	Number of Seats	Proportion of Seats
Reform	24	43.64%
Conservative	15	27.27%
Liberal Democrat	11	20%
Labour	2	3.64%
Green	1	1.82%
Independent	1	1.82%
Restore Britain	1	1.82%
Total	55	100%

### **Committee Size and Allocation of Seats**

5. In order to reconstitute the Council's committees in accordance with the committee structure set out in the Council's Constitution as currently drafted, the Council must determine the number of members to serve on each committee and the allocation of committee places between the political groups.
6. In accordance with the legislation, the Council is under a duty to apply the following principles to the allocation of seats as far as is reasonably practicable:
  - (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
  - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
  - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
  - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.
7. At the time of writing this report the allocation of seats between the political groups is still subject to discussion. A supplementary report setting out committee size and allocation of seats will be circulated to members of the Council as soon as agreement has been reached.

### **Membership of Committees**

8. The lists setting out membership of the Scrutiny Commission, Boards and Committees (including the naming of Spokesmen/Spokespersons) is the subject of a separate agenda item and will be attached to the Order Paper and tabled on the day of the Council meeting.

### **Resource Implications**

9. There are no resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **Equality Implications**

10. There are no discernible equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**Human Rights Implications**

11. There are no discernible human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**(Motion to be moved: -**

**(a) That the Council's political balance following the results of the by election held on 16 April 2026 be noted;**

**(b) That the allocation of seats on those committees subject to political balance arrangements be approved.)**

**Background Papers**

The Constitution of the County Council

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1187&MId=8155&Ver=4&Info=1>

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