

## **HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report To:** Council  
24 February 2015

**From:** Chief Executive

**Subject:** **ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

All Wards  
Scrutiny Committees

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### **1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider necessary amendments to the allocation of seats on Committees because of recent changes in the political groups on the Council.
- 1.2 Councillor G Key has left the Conservative Group and is acting as an Independent Member of the Council, non-aligned to any Political Group. This has had an effect on the political proportionality of the Council and requires consideration of changes to the allocation of seats on Committees.

### **2.0 ALLOCATION OF SEATS:**

- 2.1 Committees must be constituted on the basis of available seats being allocated in accordance with the Council's overall political proportionality (so far as is "reasonably practicable") unless some other basis of allocation has been approved without any Member voting against it.
- 2.2 The allocation of seats is a two-stage process:-
- 2.2.1 Council determines seat allocations to each Group based on proportionality;
- 2.2.2 Council decides which Members sit on which Committees. In carrying out this process the Council must follow the wishes expressed by Groups.
- 2.3 Proportionality does not apply to Cabinet. Proportionality is currently waived for the Licensing Committee, Licensing and Appeals Hearings Panel and the Standards Hearings Panel.
- 2.4 Currently the remaining seats on the Council are allocated on the following basis:-

Conservatives 25	Independents 3	Liberal Democrats 2
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This is represented in Annex 'A'.

- 2.5 However, following the changes referred to at paragraph 1.2 above, the seat allocation should be:-

Conservatives 25	Independents 3	Liberal Democrats 1	Other 1
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In order to convert this to Committee places it is recommended that the allocations in Annex 'B' be adopted.

2.6 If adopted this would require the Conservative Group to fill its vacancy on Scrutiny Committee. Also, the Liberal Democrats would be required to relinquish one of their previously allocated seats on either the Scrutiny Committee or Planning Committee to align with the recommended seat allocation. This would then enable Councillor Key to be allocated a seat on a Committee in line with the legal requirements to comply with the rules on political proportionality.

2.7 The Group Leaders have been consulted on the proposals in paragraph 2.6 and have agreed the following:-

- Councillor K G Hardisty be appointed to the Conservative vacancy on the Scrutiny Committee.
- The Liberal Democrats relinquish their previously appointed seat on Scrutiny Committee and this be allocated to Councillor G Key.

### **3.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

3.1 The Council is obliged to comply with rules on proportionality and the wishes of Groups in allocating seats on Committees.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **5.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

### **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

6.1 It is recommended:-

- (1) that proportionality rules continue to be waived in respect of the Licensing Committee, Licensing and Appeals Hearings Panel and the Standards Hearings Panel;
- (2) that the allocations for political groups for the remaining Committees be as set out in Annex 'B';
- (3) that the changes of membership of Committees set out in paragraphs 2.7 of the report be approved.

PHIL MORTON

**Background papers:** None  
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**Current Seat Allocation**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat Group</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Scrutiny Committee	9	1	1	<b>11</b>
Planning Committee	10	1	1	<b>12</b>
Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	6	1	0	<b>7</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30</b>

**Seat Allocation wef 24 February 2015**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat Group</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Scrutiny Committee	9	1	0	1	<b>11</b>
Planning Committee	10	1	1	0	<b>12</b>
Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	6	1	0	0	<b>7</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>