

**POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES. SUB-COMMITTEES**

Committee: Council

Date: 15 April 2014

Author: Principal Democratic Services Officer

[N264]

**1.0 ISSUE**

- 1.1 To receive details of the revised political balance of the Council and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees arising from the change of Political Group by a Councillor and the vacancy for the Sutton Ward arising from the resignation of Councillor Peter Moakes.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Council:

- (a) Notes the details of the political balance of the Council as set out in Appendix 1 and approves the allocation of seats on Committees or agrees an alternative arrangement (on a Nem Con basis, if necessary).

**3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Following the resignation of former Councillor Peter Moakes on 6 March 2014, a By-Election is to be held for the Sutton Ward on 24 April 2014. Also, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Council has received the necessary written notification with effect from 26 March 2014 that Councillor Philip Read has resigned from the Conservative Group and joined the Independent Group, requiring the recalculation of Proportionality. Attached at Appendix 1 is a table showing the revised allocation of places on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies in accordance with the requirements of the Proportionality rules and reflecting the current position on the vacancy. These two factors significantly change the distribution of seats on Committees for the Conservative and Independent Groups. Attached at Appendix 2 is the current Membership of Committees list for 2013/14, prior to the recalculation of Proportionality.
- 3.2 Group Leaders have been advised of the revised number of places available on each Committee to be filled by their Groups, and of any necessary adjustments to be made between the political Groups in their overall seat allocations.
- 3.3 Proportionality will have to be recalculated following the Sutton By-Election and the outcome of the review of the Committee structure and considered

again at the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2014. In the meantime, Council needs to approve the allocation of seats on Committees in accordance with the revised Proportionality calculations, or can agree an alternative arrangement (on a Nem Con basis, with no Member voting against).

#### 4.0 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989

4.1 Section 15(5) of the Act sets down the principles for the allocation of seats on Committees between the political Groups on the Council. The principles are applied in sequence and provide a safeguard to enable any distortion caused by rounding up or down to be remedied. The principles require, in effect, that:

- (a) all seats are not allocated to the same political Group.
- (b) the majority of seats are allocated to the political Group having a majority of the authority's membership.
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the TOTAL of all committees allocated to a political Group bears the same proportion as the proportion of the seats held on full Council (this principle allows any accumulated distortion caused by rounding up or down in (d) below to be remedied).
- (d) subject to (a) to (c) above, the number of seats on each Committee allocated to a political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on full Council.

4.2 The effect of rounding up or down across the overall number of seats to be allocated on Committees can be quite significant which is why the principles explicitly provide for any distortion to be rectified.

#### 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None arising from this report.

#### 6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 Table of revised allocation of places on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies.

6.2 Appendix 2 current Membership of Committees list for 2013/14, prior to the recalculation of Proportionality.

**Background Documents**

Local Government and  
Housing Act 1989 (Section  
15)  
Local Government  
(Committees and Political  
Groups) Regulations 1990

**Location**

Room 214B  
The Grange  
Ely

**Contact Officer**

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# **POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

38 Members aligned to Political Groups

1 unaligned Councillor

38 aligned Members – 93 seats 1 Member = 2.385 seats

# **APPENDIX 1**

<b>PARTY</b>	<b>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</b>	<b>PROPORTION OF TOTAL</b>
Conservative	22	57.895%
Liberal Democrat	9	23.684%
Independent	6	15.789%
Vacancy	1	2.632%
	38	100%

<b>BODY</b>	<b>TOTAL MEMBERS ON BODY</b>	<b>CONSERVATIVE</b> [proportion of seats: 57.895%]		<b>LIBERAL DEMOCRAT</b> [proportion of seats: 23.684%]		<b>INDEPENDENT</b> [proportion of seats: 15.789%]		<b>VACANCY</b> [proportion of seats: 2.632%]	
Full Council	39 (38 & 1 unaligned Cllr)	22	22	9	9	6	6	1	1
Asset Development	11	6	6.368	3	2.605	2	1.737	0	0.290
Community & Environment	11	6	6.368	3	2.605	2	1.737	0	0.290
Development & Transport	11	6	6.368	3	2.605	2	1.737	0	0.290
Finance and Governance	11	6	6.368	3	2.605	2	1.737	0	0.290
Personnel & Corp Services	11	6	6.368	3	2.605	2	1.737	0	0.290
Others:									
Licensing	13	8	7.526	3	3.079	2	2.053	0	0.342
Planning	13	8	7.526	3	3.079	2	2.053	0	0.342
Waste & Env Sub-Cttee	5	3	2.895	1	1.184	1	0.789	0	0.132
Finance & Governance Hearings Sub-Committee	7	4	4.053	2	1.658	1	1.105	0	0.184
<b>Total Seats on ordinary committees under strict proportionality</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53.842</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22.026</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14.684</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.448</b>
<b>Total Seats when number rounded</b>	<b>93</b>		<b>54 [need to gain 1]</b>		<b>22 [need to cede 2]</b>		<b>15 [need to cede 1]</b>	<b>0 [need to gain 2]</b>	<b>2</b>

Notes:

Proportionality does not apply to Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee. The following allocations were agreed as a result of discussions by Group Leaders for 2013/14:

	Total Members on Body	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee	2	2	0	0

**COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2013/14**

<b>FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE CTTEE (11)</b> <b>7:3:1 and up to 2 Subs</b>	<b>COMMUNITY &amp; ENVIRONMENT CTTEE (11)</b> <b>7:3:1 and up to 2 Subs</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT &amp; TRANSPORT CTTEE (11)</b> <b>7:3:1 and up to 2 Subs</b>	<b>PERSONNEL &amp; CORPORATE SERVICES CTTEE (11)</b> <b>7:3:1 and up to 2 Subs</b>
<b><u>CONSERVATIVE</u></b> Cllr Kevin Ellis Cllr Bill Hunt Vacancy (Cllr Peter Moakes Resignation 6/3/14) Cllr Chris Morris Cllr James Palmer (Chairman) Cllr Philip Read???? Cllr Charles Roberts (Vice-Chairman)  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Lis Every (12/9/13) Cllr Tom Kerby	<b><u>CONSERVATIVE</u></b> Cllr Allen Alderson Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Kevin Ellis Cllr Richard Hobbs (Chairman) Cllr Tom Kerby (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Joshua Schumann  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Elaine Griffin-Singh Vacancy (Cllr Peter Moakes Resignation 6/3/14)	<b><u>CONSERVATIVE</u></b> Cllr Allen Alderson (Vice-Chairman) Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr David Brown Cllr Tom Hunt Cllr Tom Kerby Vacancy [Cllr Peter Moakes (Chairman) Resignation 6/3/14] Cllr Mike Rouse  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Chris Morris Cllr Tony Parramint	<b><u>CONSERVATIVE</u></b> Cllr Anna Bailey (Chairman) Cllr David Brown Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Kevin Ellis Cllr Elaine Griffin-Singh Cllr Charles Roberts (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Lis Every (17/10/13)  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Allen Alderson Cllr Chris Morris
<b><u>LIB DEM</u></b> Cllr Neil Morrison Cllr Robert Stevens (15/5/13) Cllr Gareth Wilson (Spokes)  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Jeremy Friend-Smith Cllr Hazel Williams MBE	<b><u>LIB DEM</u></b> Cllr Lindsey Harris Cllr Hazel Williams MBE Cllr Pauline Wilson (Spokes)  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Sue Austen Cllr Sheila Friend-Smith MBE	<b><u>LIB DEM</u></b> Cllr Sheila Friend-Smith MBE (Spokes) Cllr Neil Morrison Cllr Robert Stevens  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Sue Austen Cllr Gareth Wilson	<b><u>LIB DEM</u></b> Cllr Sue Austen Cllr Jeremy Friend-Smith (Spokes) Cllr Pauline Wilson  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Lindsey Harris Cllr Hazel Williams MBE
<b><u>INDEPENDENT</u></b> Cllr Andy Wright  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Derrick Beckett Cllr Colin Fordham	<b><u>INDEPENDENT</u></b> Cllr Colin Fordham  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Derrick Beckett Cllr Andy Wright	<b><u>INDEPENDENT</u></b> Cllr Colin Fordham  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Derrick Beckett Cllr John Palmer	<b><u>INDEPENDENT</u></b> Cllr John Palmer  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Derrick Beckett Cllr Colin Fordham

## **COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2013/14**

<b>LICENSING COMMITTEE (13)</b> <b>8:2:3 and no subs</b>	<b>PLANNING COMMITTEE (13)</b> <b>8:3:2 and up to 2 Subs</b>	<b>ASSET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (11)</b> <b>7:3:1 and up to 2 Subs</b>	
<b><u>CONSERVATIVE</u></b> Cllr Allen Alderson Cllr Michael Allan (Chairman) Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Elaine Griffin-Singh Cllr Chris Morris (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Tony Parramint Cllr Phillip Read????? Cllr Sue Willows  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> None	<b><u>CONSERVATIVE</u></b> Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Tom Kerby Vacancy (Cllr Peter Moakes Resignation 6/3/14) Cllr Philip Read (Chairman)???? Cllr Mike Rouse Cllr Joshua Schumann (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Sue Willows  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Kevin Ellis (6/9/13) Cllr Richard Hobbs	<b><u>CONSERVATIVE</u></b> Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Richard Hobbs Cllr Bill Hunt (Chairman) Cllr James Palmer Cllr Tony Parramint Cllr Mike Rouse (Vice-Chairman) Cllr David Brown (17/10/13)  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Kevin Ellis Cllr Chris Morris	
<b><u>LIB DEM</u></b> Cllr Sue Austen (Spokes) Cllr Lindsey Harris  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> None	<b><u>LIB DEM</u></b> Cllr Jeremy Friend-Smith Cllr Robert Stevens (Spokes) Cllr Gareth Wilson  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Sue Austen Cllr Sheila Friend-Smith MBE	<b><u>LIB DEM</u></b> Cllr Sheila Friend-Smith MBE (14/5/13 after Council Meeting) Cllr Hazel Williams MBE Cllr Gareth Wilson  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Neil Morrison (15/5/13) Cllr Robert Stevens (15/5/13)	
<b><u>INDEPENDENT</u></b> Cllr John Palmer Cllr Andy Wright Cllr Tony Goodge (17/10/13) <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> None	<b><u>INDEPENDENT</u></b> Cllr Derrick Beckett Cllr Tony Goodge (17/10/13) <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Colin Fordham Cllr John Palmer	<b><u>INDEPENDENT</u></b> Cllr Andy Wright  <b><u>Substitutes:</u></b> Cllr Derrick Beckett	

## **COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2013/14**

<b>FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE (7)</b> <b>5:1:1</b> <b>2 Independent Persons 2 Co-opted Town/Parish Councillor Members</b>		<b>WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (5)</b> <b>3:1:1</b>	<b>ANGLIAN REVENUES PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE (2)</b> <b>2:0:0 and 2 Subs</b>	<b>TOWN CENTRES WORKING PARTY (4)</b> <b>3:1:0</b>
<u><b>CONSERVATIVE</b></u> Cllr Elaine Griffin-Singh Cllr Tom Kerby Vacancy (Cllr Peter Moakes Resignation 6/3/14) Cllr Chris Morris Cllr Tom Hunt (17/10/13)		<u><b>CONSERVATIVE</b></u> Cllr Kevin Ellis Cllr Richard Hobbs Cllr Tom Kerby	<u><b>CONSERVATIVE</b></u> Cllr David Ambrose Smith Vacancy (Cllr Peter Moakes Resignation 6/3/14)  <u><b>Substitutes:</b></u>	<u><b>CONSERVATIVE</b></u> Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Tom Kerby Cllr James Palmer
<u><b>LIB DEM</b></u> Cllr Hazel Williams MBE		<u><b>LIB DEM</b></u> Cllr Hazel Williams MBE	<u><b>LIB DEM</b></u> None  <u><b>Substitutes:</b></u>	<u><b>LIB DEM</b></u> Cllr Sheila Friend-Smith MBE
<u><b>INDEPENDENT</b></u> Cllr Derrick Beckett		<u><b>INDEPENDENT</b></u> Cllr Colin Fordham	<u><b>INDEPENDENT</b></u> None  <u><b>Substitutes:</b></u>	<u><b>INDEPENDENT</b></u> None
<u><b>Independent Persons:</b></u> Mr Raith Overhill (Lead) from 2 July 2013 Mrs Sue Booth (Deputy) from 2 July 2013	<u><b>Co-opted Town/Parish Councillor Members:</b></u> Cllr Rosemary Aitchison (Soham TC) Cllr Tim Owen (Dullingham PC)			



## **COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2013/14**

<b>JOINT MEMBER LIAISON GROUP FOR NORTH ELY 3 Members plus 3 County Council Representatives (2:1:0)</b>			
Cllr Lindsey Harris Vacancy (Cllr Peter Moakes Resignation 6/3/14) Cllr Mike Rouse  County Councillor Ian Bates County Councillor David Brown County Councillor James Palmer			