

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13**

**COUNCIL**

**Date**            **1 MARCH 2012**

**Title**            **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

**1. PURPOSE/SUMMARY**

To reassign seats on committees in line with political proportionality.

**2. KEY ISSUES**

- Following the recent resignation of Councillor Skoulding from the Fenland First Independent Alliance, this group ceased to have sufficient members to be considered a Group under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- Councillor Archer has now joined the Liberal Democrat Group; the new group is called the Lib Dem Alliance with a total membership of 3.
- Accordingly the political proportionality of committees must be reassessed.

**3. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. To adopt the revisions to the appointment of political proportionality set out in Table 1.

<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Forward Plan Reference No.</b> (if applicable)	NA
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Cllr Alan Melton, Leader of the Council
<b>Report Originator</b>	Ian Hunt, Chief Solicitor
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Ian Hunt, Chief Solicitor Alan Pain, Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer Paul Medd, Chief Executive
<b>Background Paper(s)</b>	

## 1. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

Each municipal year Council sets out the political proportionality of seats on committees based on the size of each group in accordance with the rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the supporting regulations.

Following the resignation from the Fenland First Independent Alliance of Councillor Skoulding the group failed to meet the minimum size requirement set out in legislation. Accordingly the proportionality of committees must be reconsidered.

## 2. CONSIDERATIONS

The Council has 40 Councillors of which 39 are aligned to political groups within the meaning of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the supporting regulations.

The Groups are as follows:

Conservative	34	87%
Lib Dem Alliance	3	8%
Truly Independent Group	2	5%

It should be noted that political groups can appoint members who are not aligned to a political group, or indeed aligned to another group to seats allocated to them under the political proportionality rules.

A number of committee allocations have changed as a result of this and the details of the revised proportionality allocations are detailed in table 1.

**Table 1**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Political Apportionment</b>
Overview and Scrutiny	Up to 11 members of the Council (none of which may be part of the Cabinet)  Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	9 to Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group 1 to Truly Independent Group  To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group
Planning Committee	Up to 15 members of the Council. No more than three of which can be members of the Cabinet.  Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman Vice Chairman	13 to Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group 1 to Truly Independent Group  To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Political Apportionment</b>
Licensing Committee	<p>Up to 12 members of the Council.</p> <p>Appointment:           Chairman                                   Vice Chairman</p>	<p>10 to the Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group 1 to Truly Independent Group</p> <p>To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group</p>
Staff Committee	<p>8 members of the Council to be formed from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 3 members of Cabinet, one of which is to be the portfolio holder with responsibility for Finance.</li> <li>• Up to 3 members of any Overview and Scrutiny panel</li> <li>• 2 or more Backbench members</li> </ul> <p>Appointment:           Chairman                                   Vice Chairman</p>	<p>7 to the Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group</p> <p>To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group</p>
Corporate Governance Committee	<p>Up to 9 members of the Council to be formed from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 3 members of Cabinet not including the portfolio holder responsible for finance</li> <li>• Up to 3 members drawn from any Overview and Scrutiny panel</li> <li>• 3 or more Backbench members</li> </ul> <p>Appointment:           Chairman                                   Vice Chairman</p>	<p>8 to Conservative Group 1 to Lib Dem Alliance Group</p> <p>To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group</p>