

	AGENDA ITEM NO. 8		
COUNCIL			
Date	19 September 2013		
Title	Membership of Committees and Panels		

### 1. PURPOSE/SUMMARY

To amend the allocations of seats on committees following a change to the political balance of the Council.

## 2. KEY ISSUES

 To review the seats on committees in accordance with the political proportionality rules.

# 3. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. To adopt the schedule of appointments and political allocations set out in Table 1.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable)	NA
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Melton - Leader
Report Originator	Ian Hunt – Chief Solicitor
Contact Officer(s)	Ian Hunt – Chief Solicitor Alan Pain – Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer
Background Paper(s)	Constitution

#### 1. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

On the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013 the Chief Executive received notification from Councillor David Patrick that he withdrew from the Lib Dem Alliance group of Fenland District Council and wished to be an independent member under the name Fenland Independent Alliance.

#### 2. CONSIDERATIONS

The rules relating to political proportionality in relation to membership of committees are set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the supporting regulations.

For the purposes of the regulations a political group must consist of two or more members who have signed a declaration to that effect. Where one or more groups exist the relative proportions of the groups should be used in allocating seats on committees.

The current distribution of the 40 current members of the Council within the group structures is:

Conservative	34	90%
Lib Dem Alliance	2	5%
Truly Independent	2	5%
Unaligned	2	

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.

#### 3. COMMITTEES AND PANELS

The current allocations of seats for Overview and Scrutiny, Planning, Licensing and Conduct Committees remain unaltered. The revised allocations for Staff, Appointments and Corporate Governance Committee are set out in the following table.

Table 1

Committee	Membership	Political Apportionment
Staff Committee	<ul> <li>8 members of the Council to be formed from:</li> <li>3 members of Cabinet, one of which is to be the portfolio holder with responsibility for Finance.</li> <li>3 members of any Overview and Scrutiny panel</li> <li>2 Backbench members</li> </ul>	8 to the Conservative Group
	Appointment: Chairman Vice Chairman	To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group

Committee	Membership		Political Apportionment	
Appointments Panel	Up to 7 members and not less than 3		7 to the Conservative Group	
	Appointment:	Chairman Vice Chairman	To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group	
Corporate Governance Committee	Up to 9 members of the Council to be formed from:  • Up to 3 members of Cabinet not including the portfolio holder responsible for finance  • Up to 3 members drawn from any Overview and Scrutiny panel  • 3 Backbench members		9 to Conservative Group	
	Appointment:	Chairman Vice Chairman	To the Conservative Group To the Conservative Group	