

Blaby District Council

Council

Date of Meeting	20 September 2022
Title of Report	Amendments to Appointments to Committees and Seat Allocations
	This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan
Report Author	Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Corporate Priority	All Priorities: A Place to Live; A Place to Work; A Place to Visit; People Strategy; Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To advise Council of amended seat allocations and appointments to Committees following Cllr. David Freer and Cllr. Deanne Freer becoming Independent Members and forming an Independent Group.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That effect be given to the wishes of the political groups as to the allocation of seats as detailed in the report.
- 2.2 To approve the appointment of Members to serve on Committees for those positions as detailed in the report, subject to the seat distribution being agreed without any member voting against.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 Due to Cllr. David Freer and Cllr. Deanne Freer becoming Independent Members, it was necessary to re-calculate the seat allocations of Committees.
- 3.2 It is appropriate to give effect to the wishes of the political groups and ensure compliance with the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, Section 15 – 17 inclusive.

4. Matters to consider

- 4.1 The rules governing political balance on Committees/Sub-Committees are set out under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (duty to allocate seats to political groups) and Section 16 (duty to give effect to allocations). Section 17 of the above Act states that section 15 and 16 shall not apply where no member votes against a seat distribution

not following the requirements of Sections 15 and 16 of the above Act.

In simple terms this removes the political balance requirement, the effect of which has enabled seat allocation on an agreed rather than imposed basis.

This arrangement is of particular benefit in relation to membership of scrutiny working groups. Members are reminded that appointments to Cabinet Executive are exempted from the provisions of the above Act by virtue of the Local Government Act 2000. Quasi-Judicial and similar committees should be regarded in similar light.

The Council must, when making appointments to Committees/Sub-Committees, give effect to the wishes of the political groups to whom seats are allocated. The Council is asked to endorse, unanimously, the distribution of seats as set out in the report.

Formal notification has been received that Cllr. David Freer and Cllr. Deanne Freer have become Independent Members and formed the Independent Group, with Cllr. David Freer as the Leader of the Independent Group. As a result, the seat allocations and committee appointments were required to be re-calculated.

Seat Allocation – Based on current membership arrangements, the representation of seats is set out below:

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent Group	Green	Independent
41	11	11	2	2	2

The two seats allocated to the newly formed Independent Group are shown in the table below on:

	Scrutiny Commission (18)	Licensing & Regulatory Committee (13)
Conservative	11	7
Labour	2	2
Liberal Democrat	2	2
Independent Group	1	1
Green	1	0
Independent	1	1

Amendments to Committee Appointments – It is recommended that the following amendments to Committees be made:

- That Cllr. David Freer be appointed to Scrutiny Commission.
- That Cllr. Deanne Freer be appointed to the Licensing & Regulatory Committee.

4.2 Proposal(s)

That the amended seat allocation and appointments to Committees be approved.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

All Political Groups.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 There are no cost implications as a result of this report, an additional allowance for leader of opposition group is payable to the leader of the newly formed Independent Group.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

- 6.1 No risks have been identified.

7. Other options considered

- 7.1 No other options have been considered.

8. Environmental impact

- 8.1 There are no environmental concerns.

9. Other significant issues

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

10. Appendix

- 10.1 None.

11. Background paper(s)

- 11.1 Not applicable.

12. Report author's contact details

Sandeep Tiensa

Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny
Officer

Sandeep.Tiensa@blaby.gov.uk 0116 272 7640