

Blaby District Council
Annual Council

Date of Meeting 20 May 2025

Title of Report **Appointments to Committees 2025/26**

This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan

Report Author **Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer**

Strategic Themes All Themes: Enabling our communities and supporting our vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people.

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To determine the distribution of seats for Council.
- 1.2 To seek appointments to Committees and Sub-Committees.

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 at Appendix 1. (To follow)
- 2.2 That the distribution of seats as set out at Appendix 2 (to follow) be endorsed with immediate effect for all Committees.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 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 Appendix 1 (to follow).

Seat Allocation

Seat allocation and committee appointments were recalculated following some recent changes:

- The Glen Parva District By-Election on 1 May 2025 where Cllr. DR. John Bloxham was elected to Reform UK.
- Formal notification was received that Cllr. Maggie Wright became an Independent Member effective from 7 May 2025.
- The Council was previously advised on 8 April 2025, that Cllr. Rebecca Lunn had become an Independent Member.

– Based on current membership arrangements, the representation by Committee for this Council are set out at Appendix 2. (To follow)

The Council is invited to approve the appointment of Members to serve on Committees for those positions as shown in Appendix 1 (to follow) subject to the seat distribution being agreed without any member voting against.

4.2 Proposal(s)

That the appointments to Committees at Appendix 1 (to follow) be approved.

That the distribution of seats at Appendix 2 (to follow) be endorsed.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

All Political Groups.

4.4 Significant Issues

None.

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

5. Environmental impact

- 5.1 No Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) is required for this report.

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

- 6.1 There are no cost implications as a result of this report.

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

- 7.1 No risks have been identified.

8. Other options considered

- 8.1 No other options have been considered.

9. Appendix

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Proposed Committee Membership 2025-26 (To Follow)

- 9.2 Appendix 2 – Proposed Seat Allocation Table 2025-26 (To Follow)

10. Background paper(s)

- 10.1 Each Political Groups' Preference Forms

11. Report author's contact details

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