

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: COUNCIL	REPORT NUMBER: MC/18/42
FROM: MONITORING OFFICER	DATE OF MEETING: 21 February 2019

POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree the revised political balance and composition of the Council's committees following the recent sad loss of Councillor Burke.
- 1.2 In addition, this report is asking Council to note the appointments to committees as set out in Appendix (b) to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix (a) to this report.
- 2.2 That the revisions to the appointments to committees as set out in Appendix (b) to this report be noted.

3. KEY INFORMATION

Political Composition and Appointments to Committees

- 3.1 Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 where a local authority is grouped for committee composition purposes, the Authority is required to make arrangements to ensure that its committees share the same political balance as the full Council.
- 3.2 The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 allow ungrouped members to receive committee seats if any are left over once allocations have been made to the political groups in proportion to their membership of the authority. The political groups of Mid Suffolk make up 100% of the Council and therefore all of the politically balanced committee seats go to political groups.
- 3.3 The current committee structure has 49 available seats which go to political groups.
- 3.4 Following the recent sad loss of Councillor Burke, the committee seats need to be adjusted to reflect the vacant seat on the Council and to ensure that Council's committees share the same political balance as the full Council.
- 3.5 The Council is therefore asked to approve the revised numerical allocation of committee seats, and the calculation, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as shown in appendix (a) to this report. The calculation provides for 49 committee seats to the various groups as follows:-

Conservative and Ind	-	36 seats
Green	-	7 seats
Liberal Democrats	-	5 seats
Vacant seat	-	1 seat

3.6 Further to the proposed amendments to the allocation of committee seats the Leader has notified the Monitoring Officer of alterations to the members appointed to the committees. The Council is asked to note these appointments as at appendix (b) to this report.

4. LINKS TO JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN

4.1 Good governance and democratic, sound and transparent decision-making support the delivery of the Joint Strategic Plan.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The approval of the recommendations will ensure compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Sufficient members are not appointed and the Committee is inquorate and unable to take decisions	1 – Highly unlikely	3 - Bad	Early discussions with Group Leaders regarding Committee placements
The constitution does not provide lawful or fit for purpose governance arrangements	1 – Highly unlikely	3 - Bad	The Monitoring Officer reviews the constitution on an annual basis. Creation of a constitution working group.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Leader has been consulted on the relevant aspects of this report.

9. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as none of the protected characteristics will be affected by the recommendations within this report.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

11. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Numerical allocation of committee places	Attached
(b) Appointments to committees	To follow

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 None