

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Annual Council	REPORT NUMBER: MC/23/3
FROM: Monitoring Officer	DATE OF MEETING: 22 May 2023
OFFICER: Janice Robinson – Corporate Manager – Governance and Civic Office	KEY DECISION REF NO. N/A

POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which require a Local Authority to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups at every annual meeting of the Council or as soon as practicable after that meeting. The report also seeks the Council's approval of the composition of Committees which must be agreed each year at the Annual Council meeting.

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 Committee members and named substitutes be appointed as set out in Appendix B to this report.
- 2.3 That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make consequential changes to the Constitution following any changes made to the appointments and political composition of committees.

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.

The current Committee structure has 32 available seats which go to political groups. This is a reduction in the number of the seats from the last annual council meeting due to the Development A and B planning committees being merged to create one Planning Committee with 8 seats.

- 3.3 Separate items on the composition of the Suffolk Joint Standards Board and the Shared Revenues Partnership Committee appear elsewhere on the agenda.
- 3.4 The first step, therefore, is for the Council to approve the numerical allocation of Committee seats, and the calculation in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 is shown in Appendix A to this report. The calculation provides for 32 Committee seats to the various groups as follows:-

- Conservative 6 seats
- Green 22 seats
- Liberal Democrats 4 seats

4. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

- 4.1 Strong and effective governance underpins all the key priorities contained within the Corporate Plan.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be associated savings following the reduction in the number of planning committees but this cannot be quantified until the end of the municipal year.

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

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Group Leaders have 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	To follow
B. Appointments to Committees	To follow

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.