

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL 23 FEBRUARY 2016**

Title of report	<b>ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES (POLITICAL BALANCE )</b>
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Purpose of report	To agree any changes to proportionality following the recent by-election and to appoint accordingly to the vacant seats on the Council's Committees.
Council Priorities	All
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial/Staff</p> <p>Link to relevant CAT</p> <p>Risk Management</p> <p>Equalities Impact Screening</p> <p>Human Rights</p> <p>Transformational Government</p>	<p>None applicable</p> <p>None applicable</p> <p>Failure to review the proportionality and appoint to the Council's Committees accordingly will see the Council failing in its duties set out in the Local Government and Housing Act.</p> <p>None applicable</p> <p>None applicable</p> <p>None applicable</p>
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory.
Comments of Deputy Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory.

Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees	None
Background papers	Local Government and Housing Act, Constitution and the declaration of results of the local elections available at <a href="http://www.nwleicestershire.gov.uk">www.nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>
Recommendations	<p><b>(1) THAT THE COUNCIL NOTES THE UNCHANGED POSITION REGARDING THE POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY OF THE COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE DISTRICT BY-ELECTION FOR MEASHAM SOUTH.</b></p> <p><b>(2) THAT COUNCILLOR SHEAHAN BE APPOINTED TO THE VACANT SEATS AS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 2.4.</b></p>

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The requirements regarding political proportionality in the membership of Committees are embodied in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 15. It is a statutory requirement that where a relevant authority has a membership divided into different political groups then the decision making bodies on the Council must be proportional to the overall make-up of the Council. The Monitoring Officer has a statutory responsibility for ensuring the council implements proportionality correctly.
- 1.2 Exceptions to the rules include seats on the Cabinet, area-based Committees or any alternative arrangement that is unanimously passed by all Members on the Council.

## 2.0 VACANCY

- 2.1 On 4 December 2015, the Council was advised that Councillor T Neilson, a Labour group member, had resigned from his seat as district councillor for the Measham South ward.
- 2.2 A by-election was held on 4 February 2016 and the seat was won by Sean Sheahan also a Labour group member.
- 2.3 Due to the seat remaining with the same political group, there is no change to the political proportionality of the Council.
- 2.4 An approach has been made to the group whip and Councillor Sean Sheahan has been nominated to fill those Committee seats left vacant as a result of the resignation; namely Audit & Governance, Licensing and Appointments Committee; and a substitute on the Electoral Review Working Party.