

**COUNCIL**

16 January 2020

Report of the Head of Corporate Services

---

**REVIEW OF SEATS**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This report requires a review of the allocation of seats to political groups.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Liberal Democrat Group cede one seat to the Green/Independent Group.

**WARDS AFFECTED**

Not applicable

**STRATEGIC LINK**

Not appropriate

---

**1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 governs the appointment of Members to serve on Committees. The Act requires that where an authority's membership is divided into different political groups, appointments to fill seats on -

- ordinary committees or sub-committees of the authority;
- advisory committees; and
- outside bodies with at least three seats,

are allocated in the same proportion as that in which the Council as a whole is divided. Council determined the allocation of seats to political groups at its Annual Meeting in May 2019.

1.2 Since then, Councillor Claire Gamble has moved from the Liberal Democrat Group to become a member of the Green/Independent Group. That Group has requested a review of the allocation of seats.

1.3 The result of the review requires the Liberal Democrat Group to cede one seat to the Green/Independent Group. Councillor Gamble currently represents the Liberal Democrat Group on the Community and Environment Group. A pragmatic solution may be to allow her to continue her role on that Committee representing the

Green/Independent Group. Ultimately, it is for Council to give effect to the wishes of the Groups concerned.

1.4 The table attached shows the revised allocation of seats.

## **2 RISK ASSESSMENT**

2.1 Legal

S115 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides for the review of seats based on political proportionality. The legal risk is therefore low.

2.2 Financial

There are no financial risks arising from this report.

## **3 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

## **4 CONTACT INFORMATION**

Sandra Lamb, Head of Corporate Services,

Telephone: 01629 7618281 or

Email: [sandra.lamb@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.lamb@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

## **5 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Emails confirming Councillor Gamble's membership of the Green/Independent Group

## **6 ATTACHMENTS**

**Appendix 1** – Revised allocation of Seats

## Appendix 1

Committee/Outside Body	Allocation including independents	Conservative	Liberal	Labour	Green	Independent
			Allocation			
Governance and Resources	17	9	3	3	1	1
Community & Environment	17	9	3	3	1	1
Planning	13	7	3	2	1	1
Commercial Board	6	3	1	1	1	0
Licensing and Appeals	12	6	2	2	1	1
Joint Consultative Group	6	3	1	1	1	0
Joint ICT	3	2	1	0	0	0
Total Allocated	74	39	13	12	7	4