



1 URGENT DECISION

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Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. L. M.', written over a horizontal line.

Chief Executive

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S URGENT DECISION ON BEHALF OF
FULL COUNCIL**

21ST March 2025

Report Title: **Allocation of Seats to Committees for Political Groups**

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>To note the decision to re-allocate committee seats to the political groups following a change in political proportionality of the Council as a result of the untimely death of Cllr. Barry Panter in office and the resignation of Cllr. Robert Moss.</p>	
<p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>That using the urgency powers set out in the Constitution:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The seats allocated to the Independent Member, Sue Beeston, on the Licensing & Public Protection Committee be increased by one seat, with a corresponding decrease of one seat on the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee allocated to the Labour Group. • The Chief Executive further notes that Committee places will be revisited at May's full Council meeting following the by-elections in Loggerheads and Knutton wards. 	
<p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>Following the death of one elected member and the resignation of another, this report seeks to comply with the political proportionality requirements in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, following a change in political balance.</p>	

1. Background

- 1.1** The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") imposes political proportionality requirements in respect of the allocation of seats on ordinary committees to the political groups.
- 1.2** Specifically, section 15 of the Act requires that four principles be followed in allocating committee seats:
 - a. All seats on a committee cannot be allocated to the same political group;

b. The majority of the seats on each committee should be allocated to the political group holding the majority of seats on the council;

c. Subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees of the council allocated to each political group should bear the same proportion to the proportion of their seats on the council;

d. Subject to (a), (b) and (c) above, the number of seats on each ordinary committee of the council allocated to each political group should bear the same proportion to the proportion of their seats on the council.

1.3 On account of the result of a change in membership in both the Conservative and Labour Groups, there is a need to alter the seat allocations as set out above.

2. Issues

2.1 This decision is taken in accordance with paragraph 1 (“Matters of Urgency”) on page 78 of the Council’s Constitution. The urgency arises on account of the need for this decision to be taken at a time before a meeting of full Council can be convened.

3. Proposal

3.1 That, using the urgency powers set out in the Constitution, the changes referred to above be made.

4. Reasons

4.1 To comply with the political proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

5. Options Considered

5.1 To await the next meeting of full Council to propose the changes, however this would have the effect of a key regulatory committee being run otherwise than in accordance with the requirements of the 1989 Act.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

6.1 There are no additional legal or statutory implications associated with this decision.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 There is no direct equality impact and therefore an assessment is not required.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 There are no direct resource implications associated with this decision.

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

9.1 Risks are set out in section 5 of this report.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



11. One Council

Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

One Digital Council

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Green Council

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

11.1 The oversight and scrutiny of Council decisions is a key element of committee membership.

12. Key Decision Information

12.1 This is a key decision.

13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

13.1 Not applicable

14. List of Appendices

14.1 Not applicable

15. Background Papers

15.1 Not applicable

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