

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

31st March 2026

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"/>
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 Councillor Lynn Dean's resignation from the Council.			
<u>Decision</u>			
That using the urgency powers set out in the Constitution:-			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The allocation to the Conservative Group for Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee increases by one seat. • The Labour Group will receive one additional seat on Planning Committee. 			
<u>Reasons</u>			
Following Councillor Dean's resignation from the Council, this decision recognises and agrees the change to political balance.			

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 political balance following the resignation of the elected member for Knutton ward, 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”) as set out in 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.

2.2 It is noted that the Council is currently in the pre-election period ahead of its elections on 7th May 2026. Consequently, there are no planned meetings of scrutiny committees for the remainder of this administration period. Regulatory committees, including Planning committee, will continue as business-as-usual.

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 committees 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 Sustainable 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