

Political Proportionality of Waveney District Council

There were 2 by-elections for the Pakefield and Southwold & Reydon Wards on 12 July 2018. The Pakefield Seat was won by the Conservatives and Melanie Vigo Di Gallidoro was duly elected. The Southwold and Reydon seat was won by the Liberal Democrats and David Beavan was duly elected.

Therefore the current Political Composition of Waveney District Council is shown below, alongside the status at the last meeting of Full Council on 16 May 2018 (the Annual Meeting).

Political Group	Overall Political Balance – 16 May 2018 (Annual Council)	Overall Political Balance – 13 July 2018 (After the By-Elections)
Conservative Group	28	28
Labour Group	15	15
Independents	2	3
Green Party	1	1
Liberal Democrats	0	1
Vacancies	2	0
Total	48	48

There are currently 53 Committee seats that need to be shared out on a politically proportionate basis, which are shown in the table below.

Name of Committee	Number of Seats
Audit & Governance Committee	9
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13
Planning Committee	13
Licensing Committee	15
Joint Appointments Committee	3
Total	53

The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires that the overall political balance of the Council to be reflected, where possible, in the appointment of Members to Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (known informally as the political balance rules).

A review of the political balance of the Council's Committees has been undertaken, using a standard formula for this process. The results of the analysis are shown below, alongside the results from the last meeting of Full Council on 16 May 2018 (the Annual Meeting).

Political Group	Number of Seats on the Committees as at 16 May 2018 (Annual Council)	Number of Seats on the Committees as at 13 July 2018 (after by-elections)
Conservative Group	31	31
Labour Group	17	17
Independents	3	3
Green Party	2	1
Liberal Democrats	0	1
Total	53	53

It is proposed that the current Committee Membership of the Minority Opposition Group Members remains unchanged until they are all able to meet to discuss and agree their appointments to the Committees and their informal Minority Opposition Group substitute arrangements. A further report will then be brought to the next Full Council meeting on Wednesday, 19 September 2018 for consideration and approval.

For information, the Minority Opposition Group Members currently have the following Committee places:

Councillor S Ardley (Independent) – none

Councillor D Beavan (Liberal Democrat) – none

Councillor G Elliott (Green Party) – Planning and Overview & Scrutiny Committees

Councillor R Neil (Independent) – Planning and Overview & Scrutiny Committees

Councillor S Webb (Independent) – Licensing Committee

The Council's Appointments to Committees also needs to be updated following the recent by-Elections, as well as the Council's Appointments to Working Groups. A number of recommendations are therefore listed below for Full Council to consider:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report on the current political proportionality of the Council be noted.
2. That Members note the results of the by-elections held on 12 July 2018 for the Pakefield and Southwold & Reydon Wards.
3. That Councillor M Vigo Di Gallodoro be appointed to the current Conservative vacancy on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, that was being held vacant pending the 2 by-elections, until the end of the 2018/19 municipal year.
4. That the Committee places for the Minority Opposition Groups remains unchanged to allow for those Councillors to meet and agree their Committee places and their substitute arrangements. A further report on this will be considered at the next Full Council meeting on Wednesday, 19 September 2018.
5. That Councillor D Beavan be appointed to the following Outside Bodies, which were being held vacant pending the by-election for the Southwold & Reydon Ward, until the end of the 2018/19 municipal year:
 - East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board
 - LGA Special Interest Group on Coast Issues (Substitute Member)
 - Southwold Harbour and River Blyth Users Association
 - Suffolk Coast & Heaths Project (Substitute Member)
 - Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland Internal Drainage Board