
Representation of Political Groups on District Council Panels, etc

Report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 and associated Regulations describe arrangements for achieving a balance on Panels, etc, to reflect the representation of political groups and Independent Members on the District Council. The Act requires the District Council to review the representation of different political groups at the time when the authority holds its Annual Meeting – or on subsequent occasions when the constitution of political groups on the Council changes for any reason.
- 1.2 The Head of Democratic and Central Services has received notice from Councillor P D Reeve that he and Councillor A Monk wish to be treated as a political group for the purposes of the allocation of seats on the District Council in accordance with Regulations under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as described in paragraph 1.1.

2. WAY FORWARD

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the impending by-election in Fenstanton Ward on 25th February 2010 and that the Council already has, at four of its five meetings in the municipal year 2009/10 been required to vary the membership of its Panels/Committees.
- 2.2 To avoid further disruption and to maintain continuity of attendance and understanding of business within the various Panels, the Head of Democratic and Central Services has approached all four Group Leaders to seek their support of a suggestion not to review the representation of groups on Panels again until the beginning of the new Municipal Year in May 2010 when it would be undertaken, in any event, as matter of course. It was proposed that this arrangement would only proceed with the agreement of all Group Leaders.
- 2.3 All Group Leaders have responded positively to this suggestion and agreed to waive the requirement to review the representation of political groups until the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 19th May 2010.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council be requested to defer further variations to Panel memberships until the Annual Council is invited to determine the allocation of seats to District Council Panels at their meeting on 19th May 2010.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Local Government Act 2000

District Council Constitution

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