

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

**REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF  
PLACES ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

**AGENDA ITEM 10.1**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 A change in the political composition of the Council occurred on 20 November 2008 when Councillor Rachael Saunders was elected in a by-election to serve as Councillor for Mile End East ward.
- 1.2 The Council must therefore review the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act').
- 1.3 The rules regarding proportionality are set out at paragraph 3 overleaf, together with the current political composition of the Council. No change is required to the allocation of places on Committees or Panels of the Council on this occasion.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Council note:-
  - (a) the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 overleaf; and
  - (b) that no change is required to the allocation of seats on committees and panels made at the last Council Meeting and set out at paragraph 4 to this report.

### **3. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY**

3.1 Section 15(i) of the 1989 Act requires the Council as soon as practicable after a change in the political composition to carry out a review to determine the allocation to the political groups of seats on the committees/panels of the Council. The principles which must be adopted are:

- (i) that all seats are not allocated to the same political group;
- (ii) that the majority of seats go to the political group with the majority on the Council;
- (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees/panels of the authority allocated to each group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council; and
- (iv) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary committee/panel of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.

3.2 Neither the Cabinet and its executive sub-groups; nor the Standards Committee are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

3.3 Following the by-election in Mile End East ward on 20<sup>th</sup> November the political composition of the Council is as follows:

<b>Group</b>	<b>seats</b>	<b>%</b>
Labour	33	64.71
Conservative	8	15.69
Respect	6	11.76
Liberal Democrat	4	7.84
Total	51	100.00

### **4. ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES**

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2008/09 are listed in the table below, together with the current allocation of places to the respective political groups, arising from the last review of proportionality at the Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

4.2 A further review is now required because at the time of the last review there was a vacancy on the Council which has now been filled. However, the change in proportionality above is relatively small and officers can confirm that the allocations below still meet the requirements of the 1989 Act in relation to the current political composition of the Council. There is therefore no need for any further change at this time.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conser- vative</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>
Development	9	6	1	1	1
Strategic Development	9	6	1	1	1
General Purposes	7	4	1	1	1
Human Resources	7	5	1	1	-
Appeals	9	6	1	1	1
Pensions Committee	7	5	1	1	-
Audit Committee	7	4	1	1	1
Overview & Scrutiny (plus 5 co-optees)	11	7	2	1	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	1	1	1
Licensing	15	9	3	2	1

**5. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
(LEGAL)**

5.1 The legal position is set out in the main body of the report.

**6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.