


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 17 May 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance and Interim Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Review of Proportionality and Establishment of Committees and Panels of the Council for 2017/18	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

This report reviews proportionality as required by section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('The 1989 Act'); recommends the establishment of committees and sub-committees as set out in the Council's Constitution; and proposes the allocation of places on those Committees and Sub-Committees between the political groups represented on the Authority.

The nominations from the groups for membership of those Committees and Sub-Committees in accordance with the allocation of places; and certain other bodies not covered by the proportionality rules, will follow at Agenda Item 10.

Part 4.1 of the constitution states that the Annual Council Meeting will establish an Overview & Scrutiny Committee and such other Committees/ Sub-Committees as it considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither Executive Functions nor reserved to the Council. The Committees, Sub-Committees and other bodies appointed by the Council are listed at Part 3.3 of the constitution.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to agree:

1. The review of proportionality as at section 3 of this report overleaf and agrees the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels for the Municipal Year 2017/18 as set out at paragraph 4.2.
2. The Committees and Sub-Committees established for the municipal year 2017/18, and places be allocated on those Committees and Sub-Committees, as set out at paragraph 4.2 overleaf.
3. To note the proposed arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 This report reviews proportionality as required by section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('The 1989 Act'). It also reviews the arrangements for Non-Executive Committees to ensure that they continue to provide an efficient way of considering the required business to be conducted.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Council could determine a different arrangement of Committees to perform the required decision making and scrutiny functions.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 Section 15(1) of the 1989 Act requires the Council at, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting 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 in relation to each body covered by the Act, all seats are not allocated to the same political group;
 - (ii) that the majority of seats on each body must go to the political group with the majority on the Council (if any);
 - (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 as that group's proportion of the seats 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 as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council.
- 3.2 Once the political groups have been allocated their places in accordance with the above rules, the Council may appoint ungrouped members to any remaining positions.
- 3.3 Neither the Cabinet, any executive sub-groups of the Cabinet; nor the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

3.4 The current political composition of the Council is now as follows:

GROUP	SEATS	PROPORTION ON COUNCIL	ENTITLEMENT
Labour	22	48.89%	33.73 (34)
Independent Group	9	20.00%	13.80 (14)
Conservative	5	11.11%	7.67 (8)
People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets	5	11.11%	7.67 (8)
Ungrouped	4	0*	5 (remainder)
	45		69

* Ungrouped Councillors are not directly included in the proportionality calculation. As two Councillors are required to form a group the Liberal Democrat Councillor is included in the 'ungrouped' designation above.

4. Allocation of Places on Committees

4.1 The Committees and Panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2017/18 are listed below. There is a recommended total of 69 places on these Committees and Panels.

4.2 Applying the principles in the 1989 Act as closely as is reasonably practicable, the proposed allocation of places on the committees and panels covered by the requirement for proportionality for the remainder of the municipal year or until the next review of proportionality, whichever is sooner, is as follows:-

Committee/panel	Total	Labour	Independent Group	Conservative	People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets	Ungrouped
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	2	1	1	
Audit Committee	7	3	1	1	1	1
Development Committee	7	4	1	1	0	1
Strategic Development Committee	8	4	2	1	1	
General Purposes Committee	9	5	2	1	1	
Licensing Committee	15	7	3	1	2	2
Pensions Committee	7	3	1	1	1	1
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 7 co-optees)	7	3	2	1	1	
TOTALS	69	34	14	8	8	5

- 4.3 The above will result in the allocation of all committee places amongst the political groups in accordance with the rules set out in the 1989 Act.
- 4.4 It is for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree arrangements for its own Sub-Committees. However, the expected Sub-Committee arrangements and memberships are set out below.

Sub-Committee	Total	Labour	Independent Group	Conservative	People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets
Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee	6	3	1	1	1
Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee	6	3	1	1	1
Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee	6	3	1	1	1

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 5.1. There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 6.1. The legal considerations are set out in the main body of the report.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1. None directly related to this report.

8. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None directly related to this report.

9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 9.1. None directly related to this report.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None directly related to this report.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. None directly related to this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None.

Appendices

- None.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A